

Bundesrat approves unification

BONN (AP) — The Upper House of Parliament approved a treaty Friday that clears the way for unity with East Germany on Oct. 3 despite a warning that unification will be costly for West Germany. All 11 West German states represented in the Bundesrat approved the unification treaty. One day earlier the document was ratified by the Bundestag, parliament's lower house, and by the East German parliament. The treaty acts as the formal document uniting the two Germanys, and reconciles the vastly differing legal systems of both nations. Although the Bundesrat members gave their formal blessing to the treaty, they stressed their worries about the high costs of unifying with their economically troubled neighbour. Bremen Mayor Klaus Wedemeier, a member of the opposition Social Democrats, reiterated demands that Chancellor Helmut Kohl quickly tell the voters whether tax increases will be needed to finance unification. Kohl's government in recent days has changed it changed that tax hikes won't be needed, saying they should be enacted as a last resort. The Social Democrats would like to see Kohl openly admit the need for tax hikes before united German elections are held on Dec. 2.

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Crown Prince, Ecevit discuss Gulf

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit paid a brief visit to Jordan and left for home Friday. During the visit, Ecevit was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to discuss Turkish-Arab relations and the Gulf crisis as well as Jordan's continued efforts to defend tension in the Gulf. Ecevit, who arrived here from Baghdad met with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to discuss the Gulf situation.

Iraq to allow in Arab expatriates

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Iraqi government is allowing all Arab nationals with permits to reside and work in Iraq or Kuwait to return to their places of work as of Thursday, Sept. 20, until Oct. 23. A statement in Baghdad said that those who fail to return by the deadline will risk losing their right to return at all, according to a report in Al Ra'i Friday. The report quoted an official at the Iraqi embassy in Amman as saying that the new measure applies to all Arab nationals, even those who left Baghdad and Kuwait after Aug. 23 and those who were formerly banned from returning to Iraq and Kuwait on Sept. 4.

SPA denies deportations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) has denied reports that the Saudi government had deported 50 Jordanian families in view of the Gulf crisis. Reuters quoted the Saudi agency as saying that reports and rumours about such deportations were groundless.

Hawatmeh in Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) left Amman for Baghdad Thursday after taking part in a general conference by representatives of various Arab political groups in Amman to voice solidarity with the Iraqi people. A DFLP spokesman said that Hawatmeh's visit to Baghdad was intended to show solidarity with the Iraqi people.

Cheney in Spain

MADRID (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney began talks on the Gulf crisis and NATO issues with his Spanish counterpart Narcis Serra Friday. Cheney, in Spain for 24 hours on a visit originally scheduled for July, was also due to meet King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. The United States announced Tuesday that it would begin to close 127 overseas bases and reduce operations in 23 others next year in response to warmer East-West relations and budget pressures at home. Eleven bases in Spain will be affected.

Hizbollah, Amal renew clashes

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Rival Shiite militias, vying for control of their 1.3 million-strong community, battled in South Lebanon Friday, security sources said. Three people were wounded in the fighting. The sources said pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) and Syrian-backed Amal militiamen fought with machine guns, mortars and artillery in the strategic Iqlim Al Toufah mountainous ridge, some 40 kilometres south of Beirut. The clashes were the latest in a series of violations of a ceasefire brokered earlier this month by Iran and Syria.

French 'volunteer' delegation in Iraq

NICOSIA (AP) — A delegation of French "volunteers" has arrived in Baghdad to stay at Iraq's "vital installations" as a gesture of peace, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Friday. The agency said the French were "guests of the Iraqi people," the same term applied to Western men held at military and other strategic locations in an effort to prevent an attack on Iraq by U.S. and other military forces. INA reported the French delegation said it supported Iraq.

Taher accuses Tapline of breaching terms of agreement S. Arabia cuts off oil supply to Jordan

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan confirmed Friday that the Saudi Arabian Tapline company has stopped pumping crude oil to the Kingdom as of midnight Sept. 19, 1990 with only six hours warning. On Sept. 19 at 6:00 p.m. the Jordanian government received a letter from the Tapline company that said because of the government's delay in payment of the sum requested in full... it has stopped pumping oil through the Tapline line as of midnight of the day... said Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The minister said the company demanded payment of \$46 million — \$40 million for crude oil supplied to Jordan in the second half of 1985 and \$6 million for crude oil supplies in June 1990. The Tapline company requested payment the same day the government received the letter.

According to the minister, Jordan replied to the company's payment demand in a letter, which said that payment of the \$40 million was ordered cancelled by King Fahd and "as to the \$6 million, the minister of finance has ordered immediate payment."

The minister accused the company of breaching the terms of the agreement by stopping the flow on this manner. "(This) runs against the agreement between

the government of Jordan and the Tapline company," Taher said. "The accord specifies that in case of payment delays, interest would be calculated within a rate specified in the agreement," he added.

Jordan has signed an agreement with the Tapline company to supply the country with about a million barrels, to be received at a rate of 35,000 barrels per day — half of the Kingdom's daily requirements — to compensate for the loss of Iraqi oil blocked by United Nations — imposed sanctions against Baghdad. Jordan reduced its oil imports from Iraq from 83 per cent to 40 per cent after Riyadh promised to provide at least half the Kingdom's needs.

Taher said the Jordanian government was paying all the direct and indirect costs which the Tapline was incurring to operate the line and that Jordan had paid for this purpose \$120 million. An official, who insisted on anonymity, said the Saudi company used the "pretext" to back payments to cut off the oil.

Another official said Jordan has protested to the Saudis about the decision. "We should have been given six months' notice instead we were given six hours," the official said. The official noted King Fahd had said Jordan would be exempt from payment "but obviously this was reversed for political reasons."

Although financial matters were cited for the Saudi decision, analysts see the action as a clear political message expressing

Saudi Arabia's anger towards Jordan, where popular sentiment is running high in favour of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. His Majesty King Hussein has said he opposed the Iraqi occupation and annexation of Kuwait but he has also criticised the U.S.-led military build-up in Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi decision has come immediately after Amman hosted a conference of predominantly leftist groups. A parliamentarian said the fact that the gathering was under the King's patronage could have been misinterpreted by some countries. "I am sure the Saudis do not understand that this a democratic society and people have the right to express their views. The King's position is clear."

Jordan has been complying with the global trade ban against Baghdad with the exception of oil imports, which Iraq provides to the Kingdom at a concessional price of \$16.4 per barrel compared to the market price of over \$31. Minister of Finance Basel Jaraneh said Wednesday that Jordan's imports of Iraqi oil was an interim solution until suitable alternatives could be found. He said Saudi Arabia was providing oil to the Kingdom but the terms of the trade were not yet clear.

Jordan has sought compensation and waivers for applying sanctions against its major trading partner. The finance minister said that Jordan faced economic collapse unless it received substantial amounts of financial aid.

U.N. to appeal for Jordan aid

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council was preparing Friday to appeal for international assistance for Jordan, which has suffered economically since implementing the trade embargo against Iraq.

The Security Council deferred final approval Thursday of the letter asking the U.N. secretary general to implement recommendations for helping Jordan and a council source said the delay was over relatively minor points of language and the letter, which promises no specific sum, would probably be completed Friday.

Jordan told the council's sanctions committee a month ago that it needs grants totalling \$641 million to cover immediate requirements for four months, as well as oil and related products on concessional terms to replace supplies normally obtained from Iraq.

Jordan also said it would face annual losses totalling nearly \$2 billion.

In response, the sanctions committee drafted a report recommending an appeal to all states to provide Jordan with immediate technical, financial and material assistance.

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar would be asked to assess the problems facing Jordan and to make suggestions for appropriate remedies. The letter being considered by the council in private consultations would ask Perez de Cuellar to implement these and related recommendations.

EC proposes to tighten Iraq siege

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — The European Community (EC) commission Friday proposed new measures to tighten the trade embargo imposed by the 12 member states against Iraq and Kuwait.

The measures include extending the embargo to include services such as transportation, construction work, engineering and consulting.

If approved by EC foreign ministers, the measures could force companies from the trade bloc that have continued work on construction and engineering projects in Iraq to abandon their work.

Several EC concerns, including Dutch canal-dredging companies, have continued working in Iraq despite the embargo imposed following Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of its neighbour.

Oil prices end week near nine-year highs

LONDON (R) — World oil prices were ending a turbulent week near their highest in nine years after Iraq said it was prepared for war.

Market analysts saw potential for further gains even if there is no fighting — oil remains scarce because of U.N. sanctions against Iraq and Kuwait and the northern winter is getting closer and with it higher demand.

Yet companies and governments, fearing the war of words will turn to actual conflict, are hoarding petroleum stocks.

"The oil companies are holding 99 days forward stock," said Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, former Saudi Arabian oil minister. "If they reduced this to the IEA minimum of 90 days, they could have \$21 oil," he told reporters Thursday night in Amsterdam during a week when the world benchmark crude oil, North Sea Brent blend, was quoted as high as \$36.50 per barrel for prompt loading.

The board of governors of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the West's oil "watchdog," meets in Paris Sept. 28 for the third time since Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2.

Yamani is among market watchers who say Western gov-

ernments should now use the IEA to promote more use of oil stocks, despite natural reluctance to draw on them as long as fear persists that war may engulf the Middle East oil fields.

Pump prices for refined oil products are rising especially in Europe and Asia — European gasoline prices hit all-time highs this week of \$430 per tonne compared with around \$290 Aug. 2.

Scarce supplies since two big Kuwaiti refineries stopped work and strong Asian demand has tightened the market. Petrol is making the unusual journey to Europe from the Americas.

On the crude oil supply front, OPEC is making up at least three million barrels daily of some four million lost from Iraq and Kuwait, industry executives report.

But there is a shortage of refining capacity to process the heavier grades of crude oil which it is providing. Some European refineries are shut for pre-winter maintenance.

Gas oil prices look extremely strong with material being sucked into Asia and the Mediterranean from northwest Europe. Gas oil includes a range of heating and transport fuels.

King to continue consultations with Arab leaders on Gulf

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein has returned home from Morocco, where he took part in a mini Arab summit aimed at formulating an Arab peace initiative to solve the Gulf crisis.

There were no details available on the summit, which was attended by King Hassan of Morocco and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. But in a message sent to the Moroccan monarch King Hussein said that consultations would continue.

After departing Rabat, King Hussein sent a cable to King Hassan, thanking him for the hospitality and care accorded to him and the Jordanian delegation accompanying him, and expressing appreciation to him for providing a great opportunity for him to meet with him and with Benjedid at "this critical stage."

The King noted that "the current stage which the Arab World is going through requires full understanding and joint Arab efforts capable of safeguarding the Arab Homeland and the future of its generations."

The King said that the talks in Rabat reflected the Arab leaders' interest to safeguard the Arab message and to enhance the role Arabs can play in finding solutions to their problems."

He added that the three leaders will pursue their contacts and efforts to safeguard Arab rights and interests at this critical time

when it is facing challenges inherent in the post cold war era."

Both Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have been seeking to lay the basis for an Arab peace initiative to avert a military confrontation in the Gulf.

Analysts said that securing the support of Morocco, which has sent troops to join the U.S.-led forces in Saudi Arabia, for any Arab peace initiative could help bridge the wide-ranging differences within the Arab ranks over the Gulf crisis.

Although Morocco has lent its support for the Western military build-up in the Gulf, King Hassan has made some critical statements in the French press about the deposed Kuwaiti royal family.

Arab analysts said that King Hassan might be willing to support, or at least not oppose an Arab peace initiative to appease popular criticism in his country against Western intervention in the region.

But both Jordanian and Palestinian efforts appear to be confronted with opposition by some Arab countries. PLO officials in Tunis accused some Arab countries of obstructing its peace efforts in the Gulf.

"There are certain Arab and foreign circles who are trying their best to block an Arab political solution to the Gulf crisis which the PLO and other Arab countries are working for," Bassem Abu Sharif, advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told Reuters.

"The PLO is seriously involved in efforts to find common grounds for a political solution that will save the region from a catastrophic war," Abu Sharif said.

He did not name any specific Arab country, but Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has reportedly called on the U.S. to take action against Iraq.

'Iran ready to work for Gulf peace'

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani called for peace in the Gulf Friday saying Iran was ready to work to achieve it. Rafsanjani, speaking ahead of a visit to Tehran by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, told worshippers at Friday prayers in Tehran that Iran did not seek revenge against Gulf war foe Iraq, or Kuwait which supported it with money. "We are not after revenge and despite the whole lot of aggression against us, we are willing to help establish peace in the region through our Islamic role," Iran's official news agency IRNA quoted him as saying. The restoration of regional tranquillity was "vital necessity," Rafsanjani said. Rafsanjani, whose comments contrasted with a more hardline anti-U.S. stance taken by Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, called for a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. He denounced the deployment of U.S. and other forces in Saudi Arabia and called for "the exit of all outside forces" from the region. Khamenei said last week the fight against U.S. forces in the Gulf amounted to holy war.

Baghdad reports air space violation

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq said Friday that two warplanes coming from Saudi Arabia had penetrated its airspace and ranged up to 10 kilometres inside the border before turning back.

A military communique on Baghdad Radio said the incident occurred at 12.14 p.m. Baghdad local time (0814 GMT) Thursday.

It did not give the type or nationality of the aircraft, which violated the Iraqi airspace at a triangle where the Saudi, Jordanian and Iraqi borders meet.

A U.S. military spokesman in the Gulf region, Michael Sherman, said: "No U.S. aircraft violated Iraqi airspace." There was no immediate comment from Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqi broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted a military spokesman as saying:

"Two aircraft coming from Saudi Arabia penetrated the Iraqi airspace at the border triangle of Iraq, Jordan and Saudi Arabia at 12.14 p.m. on Thursday Sept. 20, 1990.

"They ranged seven to 10 kilometres inside Iraqi territory, at an altitude of 9,500 metres and a speed of 1,040 kilometres per hour."

The spokesman provided no other details on the incident, the third violation of Iraqi airspace reported by Baghdad since U.S.-led multinational forces assembled in the kingdom after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2.

Iraq toughens hardline stand

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) urged Iraqis Friday to steel themselves for "the mother of all battles" but made clear Iraq would not fire the first shot in a Gulf war.

In statement, vowing that Iraq would not retreat in the Gulf crisis, heightened war fears around the world and sent stock prices down and oil prices up on international markets.

But diplomats and military experts in Baghdad saw no sign of imminent hostilities, some suggest the don't was still ajar for a negotiated solution to the crisis sparked by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, a move that has sparked a huge buildup of U.S. and allied forces.

Iraqi Television interrupted its normal programmes, breaking into an Egyptian film shortly after midnight to broadcast the statement, the toughest since the crisis began.

It made no mention of peace,

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Iraq expels European, U.S. and Egyptian diplomats

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq has expelled military officials at 11 European Community (EC) embassies and restricted the movement of remaining diplomats, turning up the heat on a growing diplomatic war.

Egypt, which leads Arab opposition to Iraq, also reported that its military attaché, two aides and two counsellors have been expelled from Baghdad.

Baghdad-based diplomats said the ambassadors of 11 EC countries were summoned to the Iraqi Foreign Ministry Thursday night and told that their military attachés and their aides have seven days to leave the country.

They said no reason was provided, but that the Iraqi authorities apparently were retaliating for the expulsion of Iraqi diplomats and citizens from European countries.

The diplomats said they believed some 50 attaches and aides were included in the expulsion order, noting that France's embassy took the brunt of the Iraqi wrath.

Eleven members of the French embassy's staff, including the military attaché, were told to leave.

A British diplomat said: "Our

Ambassador (Harold Walker) and the EC ambassadors were summoned to the Foreign Ministry last night and told that their military attachés and other military officers have to leave within seven days.

"The head of the consular department at the Foreign Ministry also told them that Iraq was restricting the movement of all diplomats at these embassies to 25 square miles" (65 square kilometres) of the centre Baghdad.

"It was predictable but entirely unjustified... this is just retaliation," British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said.

London had earlier ordered eight Iraqi embassy staff and 23 civilians to leave by Sept. 25, and Friday announced that all new Iraqi students were banned from entering Britain.

In Rome, the Foreign Ministry said Iraq had given Italy's military attaché and three of his staff 10 days to leave Baghdad, in retaliation for its expulsion Sunday of Iraqi military personnel and ban on embassy members moving outside the Italian capital.

Spain, which has not yet expelled any Iraqi diplomats but which

Curfew in Gaza after Israeli soldier's death

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli soldier was killed in a violent protest by Palestinians on the first day of the Jewish new year after his car hit a donkey cart and injured two brothers in a Gaza Strip refugee camp, the army command said Friday.

The Gaza Strip commander Shmuel Zucker, said the soldier was on his way Thursday to join his unit in the Gaza Strip when he "apparently accidentally entered Burelj refugee camp."

Zucker told Israel's army radio that the soldier's car was stoned and added: "As he continued to drive he collided with a donkey cart, apparently because of the stoning, wounding the two youths on the cart."

The commander said the car then got stuck. "The stoning continued and during the stoning the soldier was killed," Zucker said.

The Palestinians then set the car ablaze. The soldier's charred body was recovered from the burned vehicle, the army spokesman's office said.

The soldier was the 12th to die in the Palestinian uprising.

Israel's ruling party sought to recall parliament from its new year break Friday after the incident.

Israel Radio said Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud party appeared likely to get the 20 member's signatures needed to recall the house to debate the death.

Agriculture Minister Rafail Eitan, a former chief of staff and representative of a far-right political party in government, said the soldier's killers should be expelled from Israel and all buildings at the scene blown up as punishment.

Troops clamped a curfew on the Burelj and Rafah refugee camps in Gaza and arrested more than 100 people at Burelj Friday as they searched for suspects, residents said.

The violence follows a period of relative quiet in the Gaza Strip.

An army spokesman, who cannot be identified by name under military rules, said he believed the soldier was in uniform at the time of the Thursday's incident.

The army spokesman could not explain what a soldier was doing driving alone in a civilian car

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(Continued on page 4)

Hrawi signs reforms, warns Aoun

BEIRUT (Agencies) — President Elias Hrawi signed into law Friday political reforms giving Muslims an equal share of power with the long-dominant Christians in a bid to resolve Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war.

Hrawi's move was aimed at speeding up implementation of an Arab League-brokered peace plan that has been stalled because of opposition from rebel General Michel Aoun.

In a speech at the signing ceremony, Hrawi urged Aoun to "peacefully join the process of ending the civil war."

But he warned the general that if he did not, "I will be forced to take the bitter decision of resorting to an imperative surgical operation" to crush Aoun's forces in the Christian enclave.

There was no immediate response from Aoun, whose dwind-

ling force of around 15,000 mainly Christian troops held pockets in east Beirut and the nearby Metn mountains after a power struggle with Christian militia chief Samir Geagea.

Hrawi declared that a new government, comprising representatives of the main factions, will soon be formed "to end the civil war, dissolve various militias, reestablish state authority over all Lebanese territory and shore up the economy."

Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss and Parliament Speaker Hussein Al Hussein attended Friday's signing ceremony at Hrawi's temporary headquarters in the seaside ramlet Al Baida district of west Beirut.

Until now, the traditionally dominant Maronite Catholics, the main Christian sect, have held key posts in the government,

army and judiciary under an unwritten agreement dating from Lebanon's independence from France in 1943.

At that time, the Christians were deemed to be the majority. But now Muslims make up an estimated 55 per cent of the four million population.

The reforms were embodied in constitutional amendments that vest executive powers in Lebanon's council of ministers, stripping the president of the exclusive right to take major decisions.

The cabinet and parliament will now contain equal numbers of Muslims and Christians, eliminating the 6-5 edge the Christians maintained in both bodies since independence.

However, a formula of having a Maronite president, a Sunni prime minister and Shiite parliament speaker will remain.

The Muslims have been demanding an equal share of power since the civil war broke out in 1975.

The reforms were originally worked out by Lebanon's legislators when they met in the Saudi Arabian resort town of Taif in August last year to endorse the Arab League plan.

Aoun has rejected the Taif accord and refuses to recognise the Syrian-backed Hrawi, who was elected in November to oversee implementation of the peace plan.

Aoun, a Maronite like Hrawi, says the peace accord does not contain cast-iron guarantees that the 40,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon will be withdrawn.

He claims they are an army of occupation. The Syrians entered Lebanon in 1976 with an Arab League peacekeeping mandate.

They control about 70 per cent of Lebanon.

Hrawi's government clamped an economic blockade on Aoun's enclave in July, banning money transfers and fuel supplies to his area of influence in an attempt to force him into submission.

Between 3,000 and 4,000 soldiers and officers from Aoun's army have since defected to Hrawi. They joined the president's 20,000-man army.

Those forces, commanded by Gen. Emile Lahoud, have taken up combat positions along Beirut's dividing green line and on the major highways into Aoun's zone in recent weeks.

Hrawi's defence minister, Albert Mansour, has warned that a military operation might be needed to evict the rebel general from the shell-wrecked presidential palace at Baabda.

British forces could be put under U.S. command in Gulf

WASHINGTON (R) — British troops ordered to the Gulf could be put under U.S. military "tactical control" but would not join any offensive against Iraqi forces without consulting Saudi Arabia and other nations, according to British Defence Secretary Tom King.

King, following meetings with U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and Secretary of State James Baker, stressed that Saudi Arabia must have final say on any action launched from its territory.

"You can't see things happening without the agreement of the host nation," he told reporters, adding that U.S. and British officials were drawing a command and control plan for defensive forces in Saudi Arabia and would discuss it with Saudi officials.

King said British warships, aircraft and armoured brigade of some 6,000 troops and over 100 tanks would be under ultimate authority from London, but with much larger U.S. forces in the area. "Then obviously they could well be under American tactical control."

He told a news conference at the British embassy that no decision had been made on a command structure, but that it was a key issue because U.S., British, French and Western forces were now in the region in addition to Arab troops.

Questions have arisen in Washington over control of about 115,000 U.S. troops now on the ground in Saudi Arabia in the case of fighting. But Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said Thursday that the matter had apparently been settled between U.S. and Saudi officials.

"I think they've worked out," he said.

King and Sir David Craig, Britain's senior military officer, met at the Pentagon with Cheney and General Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. military Joint Chiefs of Staff.

King will meet with White House National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft Tuesday before flying home to London.

He again stressed that both London and Washington wanted to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

"The question of ending this by peaceful means is to make it clear to (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein that he has no other option than to get out of Kuwait," he said.

Williams also confirmed earlier statements by British defence sources that there were no plans to shoot down aircraft in any air embargo which the United Nations might approve to beef up U.N. trade sanctions against Baghdad.

"I am unaware of any planning at the (U.S.) Defence Department to shoot down aircraft or anything of that sort," Williams said.

King said an embargo would include such measures as denying airspace and overflight rights to aircraft believed to be carrying cargo to Iraq. Attempts would also be made to stop such flights at the source, he said.

"The question of interdiction is very low down the line," he told reporters.

Kuwaiti opposition leaders want talks on self-determination

AMMAN (J.T.) — Representatives of political parties and prominent personalities from Kuwait, who are now either in Kuwait or abroad, have been holding contacts to meet and discuss the situation in the Gulf.

A report in Al Ra'i daily said that most of these personalities were members of the Kuwaiti opposition parties representing leftists, Nasserites, Marxists and progressive groups or independents like Ahmad Al Khatib, Jassem Qatami, Ahmad Al Rabai, Ahmad Al Nafisi, and Sami Al Manis.

The paper said they had agreed that there should be a complete withdrawal of foreign forces from the Gulf and Saudi Arabia and an Iraqi pull out from Kuwait.

The paper said that these opposition groups demanded that the Kuwaitis be given the right to self-determination, and choose the type of rule they wish, and retain special relationship with Iraq.

Islamic mediation team heads for Baghdad

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Islamic delegation has left for Baghdad to discuss the Gulf crisis and to try to end differences among Arab and Muslim countries. The delegation, which was formed by the World Islamic Conference that convened in Amman recently, had just returned here from a visit to Jeddah where its members met with King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia to discuss a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Iraq. According to the paper, the opposition groups do not want to see Al Sabah family back in Kuwait since the Kuwaiti people refuse their rule.

With regard to the so called popular meeting called for by Al Sabah family to be held in Taif, Saudi Arabia, the paper said that the opposition groups had decided to boycott this meeting as they consider the Taif parley as one of Al Sabah family and not representing the grassroots of the Kuwaiti people.

The paper said that the Kuwait opposition bloc would continue its contacts with prominent Kuwaiti personalities like university professors and people representing various political orientations to pave the way for a national action that would safeguard the Kuwaiti people's interests.

Arm the people — Fakhri Kawar

KARAK (J.T.) — Parliament Deputy Fakhri Kawar has called on the government to supply Jordanians with arms to enable them to take an active role in defence of the country in case of external aggression.

Addressing a public rally held in Karak in solidarity with the Iraqi and Palestinian people, Kawar said that defending Palestine and Iraq in the face of aggression starts from Jordan, and that people cannot fight the enemy from a distance, by merely watching the developments or by making speeches.

He said that the Jordanian people are ready to go without food for the sake of obtaining arms to defend Jordan and to help the Iraqi and Palestinian people deal with aggression.

He said that Jordanians should

be given the opportunity to take part in evicting the Zionists and the Americans from Arab land.

Another Parliament deputy, Mahmoud Hweimel told the rally that the invasion of the Gulf region by the U.S.-led forces was part of a conspiracy directed against Iraq and Arab and Muslim people.

The rally, organised by two committees set up to gather support for the Iraqi and Palestinian people, was addressed by several speakers, all launching attacks on the United States and its allies lined against the Iraqi people.

They called for "unity of Arab ranks in the face of the invaders." Among the speakers were a number of poets who recited verses of their poetry which praised the heroic stands of the Palestinian and Iraqi people.

U.S. networks undecided over broadcasting Saddam's message

NEW YORK (R) — Major U.S. news networks said Thursday they had not yet decided whether to broadcast a taped message by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Saddam taped a message for the American people on Thursday, following Iraq's airing of a tape by U.S. President George Bush.

Iraqi officials said Thursday that negotiations were under way to get Saddam's tape on U.S. television.

"We haven't been approached yet, and we'll cross that bridge when we get to it," Arnot Walker, spokesman for ABC, told Reuters.

Cable News Network released a statement saying: "In principle, CNN is prepared to broadcast the Saddam Hussein statement in its

entirety as CNN has done with previous President Saddam statements."

But it added that CNN would make a final decision after learning more about the "content and duration" of the tape.

Spokesman at both CNN and NBC said they had not been approached about the tape, and as far as they knew no other media had.

The United States told Iraq's ambassador Thursday that Saddam would have to make his own arrangements to broadcast a taped message on American television because "we don't have a state-controlled media."

State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler said Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly, in a meeting with Iraqi envoy Mohammad Al Mashat, had noted "that we don't have a

state-controlled media, that we have a free media here, that they were free to give to our media anything they wanted to."

White House spokesman Roman Popadiuk also said the U.S. government would simply pass any such Iraqi tape along to the news media, adding: "Saddam Hussein has had more than adequate access to the airwaves... to get his message across to the American public."

The broadcast tapes gambit began when Bush sent a video message to the Iraqi people last week giving his view of the Gulf crisis.

Iraq broadcast the Bush tape last Sunday along with immediate rebuttals of it. The Bush tape arose from U.S. complaints that Saddam is often seen on U.S. television news.

Jordan switches to winter time

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will switch back to winter time on Friday Sept. 28, not on Oct. 5, 1990 as was earlier announced according to a statement issued by the prime minister's office Thursday.

The statement said that on 12 midnight on Thursday Sept. 27, all clocks will be turned back 60 minutes so that time in Jordan will be two hours ahead of GMT.

Summer time started this year on April 26 on the second day of Eid Al Fitr.

Another communique issued by the prime minister's office Thursday banned all ministries from opening accounts at Jordanian banks in foreign currency.

The statement said that numerous ministries and official government departments have been found keeping accounts in foreign currency at local banks and that these accounts were being fed through loans coming from outside sources to finance local development projects.

Since the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) is the only official department that has been entrusted with supplying Jordan with foreign currency to cover the purchases of various products for the state, there is no need for any other department to retain accounts in foreign currency in Jordan, the statement pointed out. The prime minister's statement ordered all ministries and government departments to close all foreign currency accounts and to transfer these accounts to the CBJ as soon as possible.

Egyptian party urges Arab solution in Gulf

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, which is considering a further increase in the size of its force defending Saudi Arabia, has been helping ferry Syrian troops and tanks there, defence and shipping sources said.

Egypt and Syria, at odds until last December over Cairo's peace treaty with Israel, decided to boost their presence in Saudi Arabia after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visited both countries earlier this month.

Shipping sources said on Thursday Egyptian vessels, including the warship Al Zafir, had been transporting Syrian troops and heavy armour to the Saudi Red Sea port of Yanbu for the previous three days.

Syria, arch Arab rival of Iraq

Palestinian children march in support of Iraq

BAQA — About 2,000 Palestinian children marched through a ramshackle refugee camp near Amman on Friday to protest at the economic blockade of Iraq and pledge their support for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Save the children of Iraq from the military siege led by America and which deprives millions of children of food and medicine," read one placard held by a 10-year-old girl.

The children carried posters of Saddam and of Palestine Liberation Organisation Leader Yasser Arafat, through the narrow, winding streets of Baqaa, Jordan's largest Palestinian camp. Several children, carried by

their parents, waved flags of Palestine, Iraq, and Jordan. Others had ribbons in their hair with the colours of the flags — black, red, white and green.

A two-year-old boy dressed in army fatigues sat on his father's shoulder waving a Palestinian flag. Teenagers, faces wrapped in Palestinian chequered scarves, made victory signs.

An international armada has assembled in the Gulf to enforce the blockade.

"Yes, we support the Iraqi children and we greet Saddam," said Rana, a 12-year-old Palestinian girl marching with her younger sister. "Don't they deserve to live?"

Yemen protests Saudi measures

SANAA (J.T.) — The Yemeni government has condemned measures taken by Saudi Arabia abolishing facilities previously extended to Yemeni nationals inside Saudi Arabia and said that Yemen has the right to take whatever steps it deems necessary to protect the interests of its people.

A statement issued in Sanaa at the end of a cabinet meeting said that nearly one million Yemenis living and working in Saudi Arabia were Wednesday denied the right of residing in the Kingdom except after obtaining a visa, and have been denied the right to deal in trade inside Saudi Arabian territory, except after obtaining a Saudi government approval. Such privileges, the statement said, had been granted to the Yemeni nationals all their life, and their cancellation now is bound to cause severe damage to those nationals who had been instrumental in building Saudi Arabia, the Sanaa statement noted.

The Yemeni government called on the Saudi authorities to reconsider the new measures in a bid to

"safeguard the close brotherly and historical relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia."

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh sent a message to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia regarding Yemeni-Saudi ties and underlining the importance of maintaining good relations between the two countries under any circumstances, according to Agence France Presse.

The agency quoted Yemeni government sources in Sanaa as saying that, should the new measures against the Yemeni nationals be implemented many Yemenis would not be able to return to Saudi Arabia to resume their work there, a step which would impose a heavy financial burden on Yemen.

The agency quoted Yemeni officials as saying that Yemeni nationals working in the Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia normally transfer \$2 billion in remittances to their home country. They said nearly 30,000 Yemenis who used to work in Kuwait have now returned home.

Bangladeshis back from Kuwait ready to fight Iraq

DHAKA (R) — Bangladeshi airmen and other servicemen who returned from Kuwait offered Friday to fight against Iraq. "We are fully trained and have a lot of desert experience. If needed, we are ready to fight against the aggressors," said Aminur Rahman Mukul, a pilot who worked for the Kuwaiti air


force before Iraq invaded Aug. 2. "We are planning to make a formal offer in this regard to the Bangladesh government," he told Reuters.

The returned servicemen were holding a meeting Friday of the Bangladesh Association in Kuwait, a body created to protect the rights of expatriate workers.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Korans
15:45	Programme review
15:55	Children programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News Summary
18:10	Local programme
19:30	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:55	Local programme
22:30	News in Arabic
23:10	Arabic play
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:05	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en France
20:00	News in Arabic
21:00	Encounter
21:30	Classical music
22:00	News in English
22:20	Feature film: "The Honourable Thief"
PRAYER TIMES	
05:01	Fajr
06:19	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:28	Dhuhr
15:56	'Asr
18:29	Maghrib
19:56	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetith, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Saide Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622466	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 811525	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Amman International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811525	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp. 15 / 52	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Khalid Taif	743500
Dr. Jamal Tami	754710
Dr. Khalid Khash	826919
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawra	732056
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637083
Natash pharmacy	623672
Al Salan pharmacy	636730
Yasoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisan pharmacy	637600
ZARQA:	
Dr. Tariq Hijawi	(—)
Khalid pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630221
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	667279
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	Complaints
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	121
(Directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	070220
Central Amman Telephone	Repairs
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Khalid Medical Centre	813813/22
Al-Beth Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Al-Beth Maternity, J. Amn	643441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mallat, J. Amman	634140
Palestine, Shmeisan	664171/4
Shmeisan Hospital	669131
University Hospital	645845
Al-Masra Hospital	667279
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Intalim, Al-Mubajrac	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf	775111/26
Army, Marfa	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	6224950
Amal Hospital	674133
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732



BEKANNTMACHUNG

für Deutsche zur Wahl zum Deutschen Bundestag

Am 02. Dezember 1990 findet die Wahl zum Deutschen Bundestag statt.

Deutsche, die außerhalb der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, einschließlich Berlin (Gebiet der Bundeswahlgesetze), leben und hier keine Wohnung mehr innehaben, können bei Vorliegen der sonstigen wahlrechtlichen Voraussetzungen an der Wahl teilnehmen.

Für ihre Wahlteilnahme ist u.a. Voraussetzung, dass sie:

1. nach dem 23. Mai 1949 und vor ihrem Fortzug aus dem Geltungsbereich des Bundeswahlgesetzes mindestens drei Monate ununterbrochen im Geltungsbereich des Bundeswahlgesetzes gewohnt oder sich dort sonst gewöhnlich aufgehalten haben;
2. a) in den Gebieten der übrigen Mitgliedstaaten des Europarats leben oder
- b) in anderen Gebieten leben und am Wahltag seit ihrem Fortzug aus dem Geltungsbereich des Bundeswahlgesetzes nicht mehr als zehn Jahre verstrichen sind;
3. in ein Wahlverzeichnis im Geltungsbereich des Bundeswahlgesetzes eingetragen sind. Diese Eintragung erfolgt nur auf Antrag. Der Antrag ist auf einem Formblatt zu stellen. Er soll bald nach dieser Bekanntmachung abgesandt werden. Einem Antrag, der erst am 12. November 1990 oder später bei der zuständigen Gemeindebehörde eingeht, kann nicht mehr entsprochen werden (§ 18 Abs. 1 der Bundeswahlordnung).

Antragsvordrucke (Formblätter) sowie informierende Merkblätter können

- von den diplomatischen und konsularischen Vertretungen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland,
- vom Bundeswahlleiter, Postfach 55 28, D-6200 Wiesbaden 1,
- von den Kreiswahlleitern im Geltungsbereich des Bundeswahlgesetzes angefordert werden.

Weitere Auskünfte erteilt die Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland.

Amman, den 19. September 1990

Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
P.O. Box 183
Amman
Tel: 689351, Tel.: 22233, Fax: 685887

Bürostunden: Sonntag - Donnerstag 08.00 - 12.00 Uhr

18:25	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)	14:40	Riyadh (SV)
17:00	Montreal, New York (RJ)	23:18	Damascus, Paris (AF)
18:10	London (RJ)		
19:18	Frankfurt (RJ)		
03:30	Madrid (RJ)		

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:30	Riyadh (add.) (SV)
12:00	Cairo (MS)
13:25	Riyadh (SV)
14:35	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
15:50	Rome (AZ)
17:30	Doha, Damascus (EK)
21:00	Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30	Agaba (RJ)
11:00	Tripoli (RJ)
12:00	Vicenza, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:00	Madrid (RJ)
13:40	Rome (RJ)
15:15	Rome, Paris (RJ)
15:45	Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
21:10	Jeddah (RJ)
21:30	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
23:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
23:50	Cairo (RJ)
23:50	Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15	Beirut (ME)
14:00	Bahrain (GF)

MARKET PRICES

Upstonflower price in tis per kg.

Apples	400 / 450
Bananas	500 / 450
Peppers (Mittammar)	450 / 400
Beans	360 / 320
Cabbage	120 / 80
Carrot	250 / 200
Cauliflower	250 / 200
Corn	300 / 150
Cucumbers (large)	140 / 100
Cucumbers (small)	260 / 200
Dates	300 / 250
Eggplant	190 / 170
Figs	400 / 350
Garlic	800 / 700
Grapes	350 / 320
Lemon	230 / 190
Mallow	120 / 80
Marrow (large)	140 / 100
Marrow (small)	280 / 220
Onion (dry)	220 / 180
Orange	450 / 400
Otra	600 / 500
Peaches	600 / 500
Pear	600 / 500
Pepper (hot)	230 / 180
Pepper (sweet)	200 / 150
Potato	350 / 300
Radicis	550 / 500
Sage	270 / 230
Sweet melon	270 / 230
Tomatoes	150 / 110

Arab solution to Gulf crisis remains the ideal solution—Soviet ambassador

AMMAN (J.T.) — Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Yuri Stepanovich Thursday said that an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis remained the ideal solution.

In a lecture delivered at the American University of Beirut Alumni Club, Stepanovich said the Soviet Union opposed any individual steps to defuse the crisis, but supported U.N. efforts in this regard.

The ambassador warned that a war in the region would be catastrophic and called for intensified U.N. efforts to end the conflict. He stressed that all military presence in the Gulf should come under the U.N. umbrella.

He said that most world nations agree with the Soviet Union that the sanctions against Iraq, passed by the Security Council, must be adhered to.

The ambassador reiterated his country's position that opposes Iraq's annexation of Kuwait and the use of military force. He said the possibility of avoiding war was still there and a political settlement should not be discarded.

Speaking about Sept. 9 Helsinki summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Stepanovich said the Americans and the Soviets discussed the military presence in the Gulf region "that worries the Arabs."

"I believe Washington has no intention to keep a military presence in the region after the conflict is solved," the Soviet envoy said.

"The Helsinki meeting has resulted in tangible results that would create the right atmosphere to surpass the crisis," he said.

He said that although many believe a war was inevitable, his country was calling for self-restraint and avoiding all that would lead to escalating the confrontation.

The Soviet Union has called for an international conference on the Middle East, he said.

Many in the international community believe that there is a linkage between the region's conflicts, he added.

He said that there ought to be

solutions to all the region's problems, including the Palestine issue.

Stepanovich said that the Soviet Union abided by international law and the U.N. Charter and if the Gulf crisis were solved accordingly, other issues could be solved the same way, including the Palestine problem.

He said that the Soviet Union believed in equality among world nations, large and small, and that the Soviet Union no more subscribes to the contention of "superpowers," because that gives certain nations the authority to force their will on others.

He said his country realised that the Arab peoples needed the Soviets in their struggle for their rights, and especially the Palestinians. Conversely, he said, the Soviet Union needs Arab peoples' support.

He said that all nations would lose in case of war, including the Soviet Union.

Stepanovich said his country would support all resolutions passed by the U.N. in case of a Middle East international peace

conference, especially those pertaining to the Palestine problem. "The Soviets will apply all future U.N. resolutions against Israel, but the Arabs are not following persistent and enlightened policies regarding their right," the ambassador said.

"We cannot be Arabs more than the Arabs themselves," he stressed.

He said that the "Arab World" seems at the moment to be in a position that does not enable it to effectively influence events in the region. He hoped this state would only be temporary.

He said the Soviet Union would continue dialogue with Iraq for the sake of finding an exit from the crisis.

He said, that despite the treaty of friendship between the Soviet Union and Iraq, his country cannot accept Iraq's reasoning for invading Kuwait, nor will it condone such occupation.

"The Soviet Union will respect all treaties it signed with other countries as long as those countries do not violate international law," he said.

Children to demand protection

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian children meeting in Amman Friday in a mini-summit at the initiative of the Yonog Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) appealed to His Majesty King Hussein to attend the World Summit for Children, due to convene in New York on Sept. 29 and 30, and to relay their recommendations to the attending world leaders.

During the summit, Nigel Fisher, UNICEF's representative in Jordan, delivered a speech that outlined the children's rights to education, health and peace in what he called the "principle of first call."

He also urged Jordanian children to make their voices heard by the leaders of the 70 nations gathering at the United Nations headquarters in New York, on Sept. 29, to discuss children's rights.

"I would like to send an appeal letter to President Bush, signed by Jordanian children representing Arab children, including Iraqis, asking him to show some kind of humanity and to decrease our suffering," suggested one of the children who attended the summit. Other children called on the world to listen to the plight of the Arab children living in the war-torn Middle East. "We should have rights like any other children in the world, American or European," another child said.

and well-being, in their outgrowth and normal growth, in their health and education, in their rights and in their future," Fisher said.

He added that costs for setting up children's programme amount to \$2.5 billion annually. "This amount might seem to be a lot, but it's not, it's only 1 per cent of what poor countries spend on arms. It is how much the Soviet Union spends on vodka every month, and what American companies spend each year on cigarettes' advertisement," Fisher said.

At the end of their one-day meeting, the children adopted a number of recommendations designed to improve their welfare. Following are the recommendations:

Address a message to the United States President George Bush calling on him to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis, thus avoiding the humanitarian catastrophic consequences of a futile war, and cohabiting the children to live in peace. The children reminded that it was not only the Arab children who will be victimised by a potential war, but also the American and West European children, because "of war breaks out thousands of them will lose their fathers or brothers."

Avoiding the double standards when dealing with causes of children, and giving them equal treatment without any discrimination when it comes to implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Giving children priority in any society and enacting special laws and legislation providing for protecting children at all times and in all places.

Directing special attention and care to the children living in difficult circumstances such as the Palestinian, Iraqi, Lebanese and Sudanese children.

Keeping children away from any regional or international disputes or conflicts and giving them the priority they deserve when taking the political decisions or allocating funds.

Calling on the world children to stand by the children of

world summit for children, on behalf of Jordan.

Asked what message Fisher would like to send to UNICEF, he said, "my main message, particularly now, is that UNICEF has a responsibility for children regardless of their nationalities and political inclinations. Concerns for children is humanitarian — therefore we should cut across any kind of barrier, be it political, economic or even social."

Increasing the educational allocations, when drawing up budgets, and providing a proper educational atmosphere.

Calling on the international community to put an end to the arbitrary Israeli measures against educational institutions in the occupied Arab territories, and making whatever necessary arrangements to ensure that schooling is not disrupted frequently.

Setting up a special fund for education, whereby rich countries contribute to the education of children in the poor countries.

Appealing to the world leaders to provide low-cost drugs and food for children of the developing world, and enacting special provisions allowing for the supply of food and medicine to Iraqi children.

Calling on the U.N. organisations operating in Jordan, particularly UNRWA and UNICEF, to forge closer cooperation in setting up more health centres in the poor and remote areas, and to contribute to improving the services in the refugee camps in Jordan.

Stressing the need for large scale promotion of health education material, particularly that related to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), drug abuse, addiction.

Urging the world countries to provide more aid to developing countries, to help provide clean water and sanitation thus contributing to protecting the environment and prevent the frequent incidence of diseases.

Abdullah leads Jordan's team to World Bank meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has formed Jordan's delegation to a meeting by the World Bank due in Washington on Sept. 25 and said in a statement that Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah will lead the delegation in his capacity as member of the World Bank's governing council.

Abdullah Thursday met French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Banehard to discuss France's technical and capital assistance to Jordan.

The two officials discussed in particular a French loan sche-

duled to be given to Jordan to help the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) to finance its fertiliser project in Aqaba.

Banehard explained to the minister the French aid programme extending help to the Kingdom to deal with evacuees either directly or through the European Community (EC).

The ambassador stressed that his government was exerting all possible efforts to provide Jordan with financial assistance to help it carry out its development projects.

The minister on Thursday discussed Jordan's economic and trade ties with Romania's Ambassador to Jordan Dimitrie Stanesco.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the two officials discussed subjects to be taken up at a meeting by the joint Jordanian-Romanian economic committee which is due to convene here in November. Jordan's phosphate exports to Romania, said the agency, was also discussed at the meeting.

Arar accuses U.S. of interfering in Jordan's affairs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar has denounced statements by U.S. officials attacking a meeting held in Amman last week by representatives of popular movements in the Arab World as an interference in Jordan's internal affairs.

Arar was quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily as saying that the U.S. administration chose to deplore the meeting in Amman instead of abstaining from committing actions hostile against the Arab Nation.

"Any Arab person has the right to ask about the U.S. Administration's actions vis-a-vis the Arab countries, like its continued support for Israel and its continued supply of arms to the Israeli forces to kill Arab people in Palestine," Arar was quoted as saying.

Arar said that the United States was continuously supplying modern technology and expertise to Israel in addition to funds which come directly from the American treasury or from the Jewish organisations in the United States.

He said that the United States had been supporting Israel's aggressive actions in violation of human rights and protecting Israel's actions with its veto at the U.N. Security Council meetings. "No American has the right to interfere in Jordan's affairs and criticise the convening here of meetings which deplore the actions, directed against the Arab Nation, of the United States or other countries," Arar added.

He said: "We live in a democratic country which called for a popular meeting to be held in a democratic manner and to be attended by representatives of various political groups, unlike those meeting held in the United States which are only attended by officials."

Scramble in market for Kuwaiti dinars

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Black market dealers are hunting for Kuwaiti dinars in the Jordanian market, and the fierce race to make quick money has boosted the currency by 50 per cent in the black market over the past four days, banking circles said Friday.

"There is an intense quest in the parallel market for Kuwaiti dinars," said a senior source at a leading commercial bank. "Some of those black market dealers have even approached the commercial banks to find out whether they were selling Kuwaiti dinars at a price of one to one, as the arrangement was in the initial days" after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, the source said. "Some even offered to pay more," he said.

The sudden demand for Kuwaiti dinars is seen by many as a result of the brief opening of the Kuwait-Saudi border which could have allowed the entry of Kuwaiti dinars into Saudi Arabia despite intense searches at the border checkpoint by the Iraqis. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emi-

rates (UAE) are the only countries which accept Kuwaiti dinars at the pre-invasion exchange rates of nearly \$3.2 to every dinar.

Ten days after the invasion, the Iraqi authorities merged the currencies of the two countries, announcing that the Kuwaiti dinar and the Iraqi dinar had the same exchange value. In theory, it meant that one Kuwaiti dinar was worth \$3.2 in line with the Iraqi-set official exchange value for its own Iraqi dinar, but in practice it meant that the Kuwaiti currency had lost 88 per cent of its value in the open market.

The modus operandi of black market dealers is simple: buy the Kuwaiti dinars for prices as much as JD 1.5 each from foreigners, mostly Asians, arriving in Jordan from Kuwait, then physically transfer the cash to Saudi Arabia, where they could get around JD 2.2 from several banks.

The "purchase" price for Kuwaiti dinars in the black market was between 800 fils and one dinar two weeks back, but it reached as much as JD 1.5 by Thursday, according to banking officials who keep a

close tab on the market. "There also appeared to be a panic among buyers to acquire as many Kuwaiti dinars as possible after the ousted Kuwaiti regime announced that it was planning to resume Kuwait Airways operations from Cairo," said an official.

"This is sure to pose a problem for the Kuwait Airways officials in Cairo," he noted. "On the one hand, they cannot but accept Kuwaiti dinars at pre-invasion exchange rates as payment for Kuwait Airways tickets; if they reject Kuwaiti dinars then the entire question of the legitimacy of Kuwait Airways and the claims of the ousted regime will be questioned. But, on the other hand, they will be left with almost worthless currency anywhere except Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates," he noted.

Asians arriving from Kuwait said despite the "devaluation" of the Kuwaiti dinar, the "current rate" in Kuwait was 16 to 18 Kuwaiti dinars to every 100 Iraqi dinars against the "official" price of one to one. Pre-invasion rate was 12 Kuwaiti dinars to 100 Iraqi dinars, they noted.

Brotherhood thanks Iran

AMMAN (Petra) — Muslim Brotherhood members of parliament have sent a cable to the Iranian leadership paying tribute to Iran's stand with regard to the Gulf crisis. The deputies said they had confidence in the Tehran's policies, especially during the critical circumstances the Arabs and the Muslims are facing now and said that the United States was leading world forces and massing weapons of destruction to destroy the Islamic awakening and to impose hegemony on the Islamic countries.

The cable particularly praised Tehran's declaration of a holy war against the foreign invaders

and its announcement that it will not allow the Iraqi people to starve or to be subjugated to foreign will.

Your brotherly stand has been met with deep pride and appreciation by all the faithful Muslims worldwide, though such declaration displeased those who conspired against the Muslim nation and its prophet the cable said.

The cable denounced attempts by certain elements which it said are trying to persuade Iran to change its position. It said that the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan is confident that Tehran would not allow such attempts to succeed.

EC, U.S. send aid for evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Commission of the European Communities has since Aug. 22, 1990, provided a total of \$26.6 million in grants to relieve evacuees entering Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq. In addition member states have co-financed with the Commission another \$2.2 million for emergency aid bringing the total to \$28.8 million. The measures undertaken so far have virtually fully utilised the grants made available. The major activities are given hereunder:

a. Repatriation of people from Amman, Aqaba, Ankara and Cairo, in co-financing with other donors through the International Organisation for Migration and with the World Lutheran Federation. The contribution of the Commission amounts to \$17.5 million. The arrangements for an air bridge have made provisions for the evacuation of some 70,000 people, including about 36,000 Egyptians by bus, plane and ferry boat, some 22,000 Bangladeshis by plane and some 11,000 Filipinos and Sri Lankans by plane.

b. The evacuation of 20,000 Pakistanis from Kuwait to Amman supported with a grant of \$1.7 million.

c. The provision of various supplies such as tents, blankets, food, as well as personnel working inside Jordan, for about \$4 million.

d. Food aid (\$4.2 million) comprising 9,000 tonnes of wheat, 500 tonnes of vegetable oil, 200 tonnes milk powder, 500 tonnes rice and 200 tonnes of lentils.

The measures aimed at providing immediate support for the evacuees in Jordan are carried out by:

— International Committee of the Red Cross/Jordan National Red Crescent Society: co-financing of \$1 million including the provision of 4 planes, transportation, tents, blankets and medicine.

— Medecins Sans Frontieres (\$0.6 million) for the provision of tents, plastic sheets, blankets and medical teams.

— Medecins Du Monde (\$1.7 million) for the supply of medicine, shelter material, sanitation equipment.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

* Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

* Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jabal Amman.

THEATRE

* Shakespeare's play "King Lear" will be shown at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.

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U.S. initiatives blunted; resonance felt here

PRESIDENT George Bush has suffered two setbacks in the last few days right on his own turf. One was the U.S. Congress' rebuff of his pledge to write off Egypt's multi-billion dollar debt to his country, and the other his lawmakers' opposition to his plans to strike a proposed \$20 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia. Israel's hidden hand was behind the Congress' rejection of at least one of the two deals. A third setback might have been a warning by U.S. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan that Washington's type of reaction to the Gulf crisis is wreaking havoc with the U.S. economy.

These U.S. domestic developments suggest, at a minimum, two things: First, Bush has no longer a carte blanche to do as he sees fit in the Gulf region; second, the U.S. chief executive may have begun to feel the pinch in his own backyard and is trying therefore to precipitate something in the Gulf area in order to reverse the growing opposition to his free hand in handling the Kuwaiti situation and rally fresh support for his stance there. Accordingly, while Washington and its blind and obedient followers have pledged not to fire the first shot in the Gulf region, they could very well be planning to push Iraq to the wall in a desperate attempt to drive Baghdad into despair and start a shooting war that ostensibly the West tried so hard to avoid. If this fails, the West may be banking on the depletion of the patience of the Iraqi people in which case there would be no need for a confrontation. The unprecedented proliferation of U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Kuwaiti situation culminating for the time being in a resolution projected to be adopted in a matter of days and aiming to extend the scope of the boycott against Iraq to cover air transport is nothing but an attempt to strangle Iraq and force it to submit or fire the first shot. Presumably, Iraq is aware of this Western-oriented strategy and would try to outwit the West in its own game by proving that the endurance and patience of Iraq and its people are inexhaustible.

For sure the West will think of other forms of pressure on Iraq, including the severing of diplomatic and cultural relations in order to push Iraq into a tight corner. But it will do that in anticipation of an Iraqi counter-move which can be seen as an act of war against the West by the Iraqis. If, however, Iraq keeps its cool, as it well knows the name of the game, then the only other option left for all sides is to seek a sensible peaceful resolution of the conflict. Every other alternative is simply too catastrophic, too crazy to even contemplate.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday described a draft resolution to be discussed by the U.N. Security Council for imposing an air embargo on Iraq as a flagrant aggression on all Arabs and one that is bound to escalate tension to the explosion point. The paper said, instead of giving a chance to the U.N. secretary general's peace initiatives and instead of accepting Saddam Hussein's peace initiatives to end the problems of the Middle East, the Security Council which is now under the U.S. hegemony is trying to escalate tension which could lead to war in the Gulf region. London and Washington should have waited and should have given a chance to the peace mediators before embarking on a hostile action like this, and before forcing the Security Council to impose an air embargo on Iraq, said the paper. The new move on the part of the Western world against Iraq came at a time when the Iraqi president announced his readiness to receive U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in Baghdad for talks on the Gulf crisis and at a time when Arab leaders were involved in intensive consultations to find a political solution, the paper added. London and Washington, said the paper, should realise that an air embargo which could be hidden under the veil of the Security Council, forms a flagrant aggression on the Arabs in general and Iraq in particular.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily says that the American-led invasion of the Gulf region will no doubt determine future inter-Arab relations since many of the Arab countries oppose the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf, but certain Arab states have supported it. Tareq Masarwah notes that those Arabs who aligned themselves with the American forces will be vanquished like those Arabs who backed the Israelis in their invasion of Lebanon in 1982. The writer notes that the 1982 invasion of Lebanon resulted in the downfall of Alexander Haig, the former U.S. secretary of state and Ariel Sharon the Israeli defence minister, while the American invasion of the Gulf has now led to the downfall of the commander of the American air force, even before a single shot was fired. On the whole, should a war break out in the Gulf, the whole Arab region will witness a drastic demographic and geographic change unparalleled in Arab history, the writer adds. Of course, the United States has been behind the whole affair and behind the tension created in our region by coercing Arab states, the Soviet Union and other nations into following her own steps, he notes. But he expresses confidence that the Iraqis and the Arab masses backing them will remain steadfast and will come out victorious.

Al Dastour Friday referred to the mini-Arab summit held in Rabat over the past two days involving the heads of state of Jordan, Morocco and Algeria. The summit reflects the intention of the Arab countries to give priority to peace mediation and to a political solution so as to avert conflict in the region, the paper noted. It said that the summit was a clear reply to moves by the United States and the NATO alliance to escalate tension in the region and to bring matters to a head. Jordan, Algeria and Morocco decided that the Arabs should not give up attempts for peace but to struggle to save the Arab region from catastrophe, the paper added. It said that Jordan which has been spearheading efforts for peace is determined to confront threats and escalation of tension with resolve to push away the dangers and avert all tension among the Arab sister states.

View from Amman

By Kamel Abu Jaber

The engulfed intruder

IN Arabic we have a saying that asks: "What does the intruder want, to abscond with the grapes, or to fight with the night guard?"

What does the West want? Why are the French, British, Americans and other Western nations in such a belligerent mood? Surely, they cannot be more concerned about Kuwait, than we in the Arab World are. In Jordan, we have issued from the outset a clear statement of where we stand: against the acquisition of land by force, for the return of legitimacy to Kuwait, for the withdrawal of belligerent troops and their replacement by Arab forces and for a political solution within the Arab fold.

And yet, inspite of this clear position, the West is making itself believe that they care more than us about the fate of the Kuwaiti people and the stability of the region. Of

course, they are not saying that they have a specific scenario in their mind as to how the affairs of the area should be conducted. All of a sudden it appears as if we are the intruders and they are the indigenous people of the area. That oil, which they believe is by divine right to be theirs, was somehow misplaced by the forces of nature in our region and that, at best, we are no more than guards over it.

Strange logic; but then, the whole affair has caused many bizarre things to happen. The atmosphere is nothing short of an "oil-wellian" one with the drama so skillfully stage managed. The greatest lesson of this crisis is that, after all, it is true that some animals are more equal than others. I myself, have never seen, nor read in books, about so many wolves in sheep's clothing. It is enough to make one doubt

one's identity.

And in my mind's "wool gathering" I ruminate upon the terrible thought as to how can one identify the real wolves from the real sheep. Woolly thoughts are these that keep getting woollier as the crisis unfolds. Who, for God's sake is protecting who from what? If this sounds like war-bloating it, it is because the situation of the shifting sands is made foggy with each "stealth" into our pasture.

While we agree with the principle of not annexing others' lands by force we question the methodology on at least two levels. The first is a moral one dealing with the well established double standard practised by the West, that is, at best, questionable. The second is the military option that seems to be performed by the West as well as the terms in which it is couched. Should the

question be asked of who has the right to throw stones? Who among all the parties concerned in the crisis is innocent and thus has the moral right to cast a stone?

As the scenario, prepared earlier, unfolds, the tone is also escalating in its belligerency. "Iraq will not be permitted to annex Kuwait... that is not a threat, or a boast, that's just the way it's going to be..." says President Bush. Is this the tone of a man in search of peace? Later he adds, "...I'm not rattling sabers. When I rattle a saber, the man (President Saddam Hussein) will know it..." And then he adds, "...Saddam Hussein will fail..."

What is going on here? Is this the presidential candidate who promised in his election campaign to bring about a "kinder, gentler world"? This hardening of the attitude, in-

deed the mental arteries is also one of the strangest by-product of this crisis. It makes one think that it is not the "grapes" that the intruder wants but to fight the "night guard," why?

Indeed why? When the oil is now secure and when the Western troops have not only returned in their colonial grandeur, but paid for by us as well. When the bases have come over ground and are now well established.

What is myth and what is reality? In looking over our desert sands, with its changing moods and mirages, its scorpions of all types below and above the ground and into the sea as well, one is struck by the strangeness of it all. What are the young boys from Montana, Mississippi, Surrey, the Loire Valley and the Abruzzi mountains doing in this strange landscape? Whose democracy are

they fighting for and what principles are involved? The myth of principle keeps imposing itself on the ugly reality of might makes right which continues to repel it to no avail. I must admit to the whole world that I stopped believing my eyes and ears. My sense of smell has already been dulled so long ago by the Western-Israeli arm that pulls olive trees from the ground, smashes babies' bones, beats women, demolishes homes and lays hostage an entire land and its people.

Our East is indeed a strange land. No one seems to be in the mood to think proper thought. But then this is the land of prophecy, great ideas and great passions. One thing, however, seems to be quite sure which is reputed to be the sum total of all wisdom: "This too shall pass."

What is a democracy?

By Olivier Lord

During the recent events in East European countries, several of these states expressed the desire (which is, for some of them, taking shape) to transform their political regime into a liberal democracy, like those existing in Western countries.

What are the essential foundations and the major characteristics enabling a political regime (be it a republic or a parliamentary monarchy) to be described as democratic and thereby the opposite of absolute monarchies, tyrannies, people's monarchies and military dictatorships?

First of all, a democratic regime must ensure that the greatest number of people participate in public matters. In other words, a democracy must practise universal suffrage. It should, moreover, be noted that the

proportion of the total population called to vote has continued to increase with time. Today, the right to vote is not reserved for men only and for people paying taxes alone, as used to be the custom. At the same time, the voting age has often been brought down. These electoral consultations also have to be organised regularly and take place by means of a secret ballot, so that no pressure can be brought to bear and influence results.

But the right to vote must also be accompanied by a real power of decision on the way matters are conducted in the country. The people thus have to be able to wield the power of "having the last word" in the framework of elections which have to bear real stakes and not just have the semblance of participation.

Moreover, the existence of a liberal spirit is necessary for the

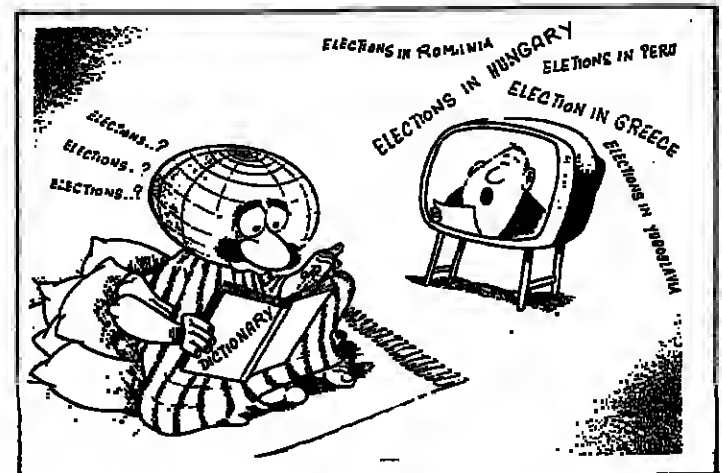
existence of a democracy. Indeed, the sovereignty of a people cannot be exerted without a pluralism of ideologies. In a democracy, the various political positions or opinions are freely discussed. Democracy thus implies a spirit which according to some, is "a sense of dialogue". In other words, in a democracy, there must be a majority and an opposition with the latter able to come to power. Thus no monopoly or privilege can be established to back an idea and no state doctrine can be proclaimed. The existence of a pluralistic, independent and free press is, of course, equally necessary for a democratic spirit to be lastingly created.

The principle of a majority is recognised as being fundamental in the workings of a democracy. At the end of the 18th century, Abbot Sieyès (1748-1836) consi-

dered the principle of majority as "an incontestable maxim". But, naturally, there must also be a true freedom of opinion without which the ideas of the minority could not be expressed and circulate.

A democratic regime must have a certain pluralism of institutions in order to present an obstacle to any possible tyranny by the majority. Today, the existence of three governing institutions is considered as inherent in a democratic regime: The institution of the people which exerts the electoral power; the institution of parliament (often divided into two assemblies) which has the power of deliberating; and, finally, the institution of government which has the executive power.

Finally, each national of a democratic country must be free



and must be able to enjoy his individual rights, whether these be private rights (such as those concerning the family and private transactions), public (the freedom to defend oneself in justice, to travel, to act, freedom of the press and of religion, freedom concerning trade and property, etc.), and political (the right to

take part in the political power). These rights, which the government cannot interfere with, preserve the area of independence each individual is entitled to, since, as Winston Churchill put it: "When there is a knock on my door in the morning, it is the milkman and not a policeman" — L'actualite en France.

Cheney reminds brass who is in charge at Pentagon

By Charles Aldinger
Reuters

WASHINGTON. — With a quick wit and a readiness to quash dissension in the ranks, U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has left no doubt that a civilian is firmly in charge of America's macho military establishment.

His sacking of the air force's top general on Monday, for threatening to bomb Baghdad in the event of war hammered home a rule Cheney brought to the Pentagon last year: Forget your stars and your gold braid, the secretary is the boss.

Not since President Harry Truman canned General Douglas MacArthur during the Korean war for dissenting on U.S. strategy has a civilian leader snapped the brass to attention like Cheney.

And from corporals to generals, the military seems to like the bright, self-effacing former White House chief of staff and congressman. He goes to bat for better arms and higher pay — but demands details and won't brook talking out of school.

"He grasps complex issues very quickly," one army general told Reuters. "There is some cooperation among the military services today than I can remember. With the budget shrinking, that's some accomplishment for Mr Cheney."

Cheney dismissed Air Force

Chief of Staff General Michael Dugan, 53, a member of the joint chiefs of staff, for telling reporters that U.S. bombers would launch massive strikes on Baghdad, even target President Saddam Hussein and his family, in any war with Iraq erupts.

Cheney read Dugan interviews in the Washington Post and Los Angeles Times newspapers, discussed the matter with President George Bush and fired Dugan personally for violating rules on discussing classified matters and threatening foreign leaders.

"He took it like a gentleman," the grim-faced secretary told reporters. Both he and Dugan expressed regrets.

Cheney, 49, did not come by his attitude on authority suddenly. He was White House chief of staff under President Gerald Ford and later assistant republican leader in the House of Representatives as a congressman from Wyoming.

And this week's foray was not Cheney's first run-in with top military brass. Just after moving from Congress to the Pentagon last year, he rebuked Dugan's predecessor, Air Force Chief of Staff General Larry Welch, for negotiating behind the scenes with Congress on U.S. nuclear missiles.

"How can you not like a man who is smart, doesn't really like to throw his weight around — but who will do so if necessary — and walks around world palaces in cowboy boots," said former Pentagon official Larry Korb, now a defence analyst with the Brookings Institution.

"It's not that he doesn't allow egos to flourish," said Korb. "But he knows he can't have a Pentagon full of McCarthurs and keep the military on a coherent track."

Truman also fired Admiral Louis Denfeld as navy chief of operations in 1949 for publicly criticising the air force budget.

"It's not that other defence secretaries have been weak in the past. But there was not the sense that we have today of a secretary who knows, really knows, the nuts and bolts of what's going on at the Pentagon," said a senior congressional aide.

"You don't have to agree with his politics. But you know his decisions are based on personal knowledge and not misinformation from below."

Cheney, who is also generally liked by reporters, has had several minor heart attacks. But a heart bypass operation two years ago has left him fit and didn't hurt his sense of humour.

He loves a good joke and likes to tell about the time he was campaigning for re-election in his home state and asked a stranger, a bowlegged cowboy, for his vote.

"You got it," laughs Cheney, quoting the voter. "That son of a gun we got now ain't worth a damn."

Gulf crisis hampers NATO review of military strategy

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuters

BRUSSELS. — NATO has started work on a major review of military strategy for the post-cold war era, but the Gulf crisis has turned what should have been a fairly straightforward project into a minefield.

Alliance sources and analysts say the main outlines of future strategy are clear, as far as Europe is concerned.

But the Gulf crisis has raised wider political questions about whether NATO could or should use its remodelled military machine outside the territory of its 16 member nations.

"A military review of strategy won't mean very much until we define where the new threats will come from and whether we as an alliance can do anything about it," said Simon Lunn, deputy secretary-general of the North Atlantic assembly.

The assembly groups parliamentarians from all NATO members and Lunn is involved in monitoring the strategy review.

"The point is that you can't implement a new military strategy until you're exactly clear on what the political guidelines are going to be," he said.

NATO is forbidden by its 1949 founding charter from concerted military intervention outside its own territory and had, in any case, always focused on the perceived Soviet threat to Western Europe.

Pressure is growing within NATO to scrap the limitation on

military action, since the Gulf crisis has affected Western security by causing oil prices to rocket and raising the spectre of long-term instability in the region.

But some alliance members, notably France, strongly oppose any extension of NATO's role and there is likely to be a heated debate on the issue.

In the meantime, in the first major review since the mid-1960s, NATO officials have to work out what the alliance's new military strategy will be. France, which left NATO's integrated military structure in 1966, is not taking part.

"The problem is that we really do have to ask the French about any expansion of NATO's military tasks," said one alliance official.

A group of top NATO officials held their first meeting last week to begin redrafting strategy.

A London summit of NATO leaders in July set out the basic guidelines for smaller, more mobile forces with a less aggressive posture. But, again, the Gulf crisis may force a major rethink of some aspects.

NATO sources say the alliance may have to concentrate more of its military resources and attention on the southern flank, an area hitherto overshadowed in favour of central Europe.

Turkey, as the only alliance member to share a border with Iraq, is now at the heart of NATO concern about instability in the Gulf and the Middle East. "It is conceivable that southern flank — the Mediterranean, Ae-

gean and Turkey — will end up becoming the frontline for us, now that the old Warsaw pact threat has gone," said one NATO diplomat.

Although Turkey has the biggest army in NATO after the United States, much of its equipment is outdated.

NATO is likely to make sure that newer equipment, particularly surplus tanks and guns no longer needed in central Europe, is transferred to the area.

It may even set up more rapid reaction forces which could be flown to the area quickly if needed.

This could also cause problems as Greece, also a NATO member, is likely to object to any great strengthening of Turkey's armed forces. The two are traditional enemies.

NATO sources say the general elements of NATO's future military strategy, designed to cope with shrinking defence budgets and a new relationship with Eastern Europe, are already clear.

They include a continued, but much reduced, nuclear presence in Europe. All ground-based short-range weapons are likely to be eliminated in negotiations with Moscow and the nuclear weapons of the future will be air-launched missiles.

Much smaller, highly mobile and multinational forces will replace the vast concentrations of troops left over from the cold war. There will be heavy reliance on helicopter transport for units, which will be much more self-supporting than before.

EC wants measures to tighten Iraq siege

(Continued from page 1)

trade embargo imposed on Iraq by the council Aug. 6, four days, although air traffic to Iraq and Kuwait has been reduced to a trickle.

The draft calls on all states to prohibit cargo and passenger aircraft from any nation from flying over their territory to or from Iraq unless the plane lands first for inspection and possible detention.

Exceptions are those carrying medicine or other humanitarian cargo approved by the council.

In addition states are called on to "detain" any Iraqi-registered ships which enter their ports and have been used in contravention of the embargo. Countries also

are reminded that the trade embargo includes freezing Iraq's known assets abroad.

U.S. told reporters that some commercial vessels try to avoid the embargo of Iraq by traversing national waters close to coastlines. The U.N. embargo is authorised only in international waters.

"Obviously, throughout the whole intercept operation we have watched ships that have attempted to avoid being intercepted by steaming very close to countries' land masses to get out of international waters. That has been tried in the past," said Williams.

"I am unaware of any ships that we are currently tracking

about which we have that concern," he said. But he added that when such incidents do occur, "we try to get intercept opportunities before they slip out of international waters."

More than 1,100 vessels have been intercepted under the U.N. order, said Williams. More than 80 have been boarded, 70 of them by U.S. naval forces. Five vessels carrying cargo in violation of the embargo have been diverted to other ports, he said.

The New York Times reported last week that three Iraqi tankers had recently docked and taken on oil at an Iraqi pipeline terminal in the Gulf, a move that may signal new Iraqi efforts to export oil and to enlist Iran into breaking the embargo.

Iraq expels diplomats

(Continued from page 1)

announced 11 French diplomats must leave Baghdad.

"This is a new escalation," French Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard said.

Britain said its Defence Attaché Colonel John Cochrane and two support staff had been told to leave and that the incoming defence attaché due to take up his post next month was banned.

West Germany said Iraq has ordered the expulsion of its military attaché and a colleague from Baghdad.

Later Friday, Iraq expelled three American diplomats and

the United States retaliated by ordering three Iraqi diplomats to leave, the State Department announced.

King to continue consultations

(Continued from page 1)

international peace conference," Rabo told a press conference in Moscow.

Two high-ranking Israeli officials visited Moscow last weekend amid reports that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was seeking friendlier relations with Israel.

Moscow strongly condemned Iraq while the PLO appears to have increased its reliance on Baghdad.

The PLO has come under strong criticism by the Gulf states and Egypt for supporting Iraq in its confrontation with the U.S.

Reports from the Gulf have suggested that the Palestinians were tak-

ing advantage of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

Some refugees arriving to Saudi Arabia said last week that many of the large Palestinian community were collaborating with the Iraqis and were now involved in helping run the country's day-to-day affairs.

On Friday Abu Sharif reacted angrily to the reports dismissing them as a "vicious campaign of lies."

"Four hundred thousand Palestinians were suffering economic hardships in Kuwait. So are hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in occupied Palestine who have depended on money transfers from their relatives in Kuwait," he said.

Arab peoples' unity faces more crucial questions

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times staff Reporter

AMMAN — The pan-Arab peoples conference which ended in Amman earlier this week has indicated a growing popular movement against the U.S.-led American intervention in the region. But, according to analysts, the conference's discussions have raised important questions pertaining to the future and the shape of the emerging organised opposition in the Arab World vis-a-vis Western military presence in the Gulf.

For one thing, will the conference be a nucleus for a series of Arab activities across the Arab World to build up pressure on Arab governments which support the foreign military buildup in the region? Or will its results stop at the fiery rhetoric and inflammatory speeches?

Secondly, which trend in the Arab World will be leading or is qualified to head a popular Arab opposition movement?

Although many Jordanian and Arab activists hailed the conference as an "effective and successful demonstration of Arab popular opposition to Western military intervention, they concede that on its own, the meeting would not be sufficient to generate a pan-Arab organised movement.

"We shall make sure that it be followed up with a series of activities in other Arab countries," said Mamdouh Al Abbadi spokesman of the Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance (JAN-DA), which sponsored the Amman meeting.

But some writers and activists were disappointed at what they viewed as the meeting's failure to go beyond the "usual rhetoric and inflammatory speeches."

"We would have preferred that participants avoided emotional rhetoric and focused on logical and coherent analysis. The masses are already mobilised and in high spirits. What they are looking for is mechanism of action," wrote Mohammed Najj Amara, a leading columnist in Al Ra'i who described the meeting as "the first popular demonstration against foreign intervention since 20 years."

Other activists counter that the conference has laid the basis for a mechanism of action by setting a permanent follow up committee and by outlining its short term and strategic objectives.

"The permanent national follow-up committee" which will be formed in the near future, is expected to act as a steering committee of popular protests across the Arab World. A reading of the final communiqué indicates that the committee hopes to emulate the modus operandi of the unified leadership of the intifada in terms of regulating and steering popular activities on the broader scale of Arab countries.

But such a modus operandi, according to analysts, faces some serious constraints. For one the committee and its popular subcommittee's activities are expected to be restrained by the governments which support the U.S.-led military presence in the Gulf. Therefore, a major factor that will determine the success of the permanent committee is the influence of the member political parties in each country, and their willingness to defy these governments.

"In some countries such activities might bring about a bead on confrontation between the governments and the political parties," said an Arab activist from Morocco.

The level of political freedoms in the various countries and the security constraints are also important factors. For ex-

ample, the Egyptian government has banned leftist members of Al Tajamo'o party from travelling to Amman to attend the meeting while Damascus remains as tight as ever in applying constraints on the movements of political activists.

But if the Egyptian government appears very in-sensitive to any internal criticism of its support of the American-led troops in the Gulf, what is more puzzling was the ban on Islamists to join a Muslim Brotherhood good-will team which was trying to find a solution for the crisis acceptable to Saudi Arabia as well as Iraq.

Jordanian and Arab activists admitted that the absence of an Egyptian delegation has underscored a major weakness in any attempt to unify the opposition Arab movement to the American intervention. Furthermore, the Egyptian leftist parties have so far endorsed a very distinct and explicit stand against the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

Contacts made by phone with some prominent leftist intellectuals in Cairo, indicate that they view an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait as a prerequisite to securing a foreign troops withdrawal from the Gulf.

"The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait has invited foreign intervention," said Dr. Mahmoud Amin Al Alem, a leading leftist intellectual and an outstanding Arab philosopher, in a telephone interview in Cairo.

But judging by the letters of support read out at the conference by the Egyptian activists who were barred from travelling to Jordan, the focus of the Egyptian left, appears to be shifting to resistance of foreign intervention.

In a lengthy analytical speech on the first day of the conference, Dr. George Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), implied that the emergence of a strong Egyptian and Gulf political opposition movements was crucial "to the struggle for Arab sovereignty."

JANDA officials said that the conference has sent the resolution to the Egyptian parties which were invited to join the permanent national committee.

Dr. Habash, and later in the final communiqué, stressed the need to increase contacts with the Egyptian parties and what he described as the "national movement in the Gulf."

Historically the PFLP has been known for maintaining links and supporting Marxist and pan-Arab nationalist opposition groups in the Gulf states, particularly in Oman and Bahrain. During the eighties, however, these groups appeared to have been weakening if not diminishing in stature. In the view of Arab analysts who are acquainted with the Gulf the Iraqi-Iranian war was one reason which contributed to the weakening of these movements as Baghdad had reportedly retreated its pre-war backing to the pan-Arabist groups.

Other analysts dismiss the possibility of the emergence of a strong revolutionary movement in the Gulf states. "The class structure, which grants special privileges to the indigenous population in the Gulf prevents such a possibility," a Jordanian analyst who lived in one of the Gulf states argued. Many Arab analysts and activists believe that the Islamic trend has a stronger chance in influencing and creating opposition in the Gulf states to the Western military presence rather than pan-Arabists or leftists.

Some analysts argue that even though the Gulf crisis has

revived a strong wave of pan-Arabism, the Islamist movement remains more qualified and prepared to lead an Arab movement against the foreign intervention.

The Amman-meeting itself has been regarded as the major step so far by secular pan-Arab, leftist and even liberal forces to unify their ranks to lead the popular movement. Analysts argue that the secular have benefitted from an apparent reluctance by the Islamic movements (in the Arab World) — partly due to the lingering influence on some of its wings by Saudi Arabia — to lead an outright opposition to the Gulf states cooperation with the West.

JANDA officials said that the coalition has invited the Muslim Brotherhood organisation in Jordan to take part in the Amman meeting but that the latter preferred not to. Muslim Brotherhood sources told the Jordan Times, that the movement did not object to the meeting in principle but had hopes that it would co-sponsor the event and have a say in determining the guest list. They said that JANDA's response was that there was no time for such preparations as the meeting date was already scheduled.

Officials from both sides said that initial plans to form a national front comprising all trends in Jordan have not materialised yet.

"Despite the common ground against foreign intervention the two trends are still competing to lead the Arab streets," said one analyst.

But in the view of even members of leftist popular parties, the Islamists still have a better chance for influencing public opinion.

"The Gulf crisis has provided the pan-Arabist trend with a historic opportunity to re-emerge as the prevailing trend in the Arab World, but it has to seriously re-organise and make a critical assessment for its past experience," Mr. Issam Shabti, from the Tunisian Progressive Democratic Alliance (Tajamou'o) said.

Last week representatives of all the Muslim Brotherhood organisations met in Amman to discuss an Islamic initiative to solve the Gulf crisis. The meeting gave way to speculations that there is a lack of consensus within the movement over the need to take a decisive and firm position against Saudi Arabia. "Some Islamist leaders are pushing for

a conciliatory position that would not hurt their links with Riyadh... but in most countries their base is turning against the Gulf states and pushing for a confrontational position," said a Moroccan political activist who is acquainted with the Islamic movement in North Africa.

The Islamic movement, however, appears more organised than the other secular trends.

According to interviews with several members of various Arab secular parties, there has been minimal if any coordination among the various pan-Arab or leftist political organisations.

Therefore, a main objective of the permanent committee is to maintain some form of coordination and cooperation among the various Arab organisations.

"The parties were consumed in local issues at the expense of pan-Arab national issues," said a source attending the meeting.

Economic problems and the struggle for democracy have been two main issues which the Arab parties have focused upon in each country. Arab political activists agreed.

"At this stage we have to strive to combine the struggle for democracy with the pan-Arab struggle for sovereignty and against foreign intervention," said Shabti from the Tunisian Socialist Democratic Party, "evidently the latter will now have to take priority but we cannot and should not ignore the struggle for democracy," he added.

The importance of democracy was stressed by many participants who pointed out that the Amman-conference, which constituted a starting point, could not have taken place if it was not for the democratisation process in Jordan.

"The democratisation process in Jordan will have a far reaching impact on the region," said Dr. Habash.

But it seems that it is the political parties in the Maghreb, which acted as one bloc and produced many of the practical suggestions to the conference, which are expected to play the crucial role in leading the movement in the future.

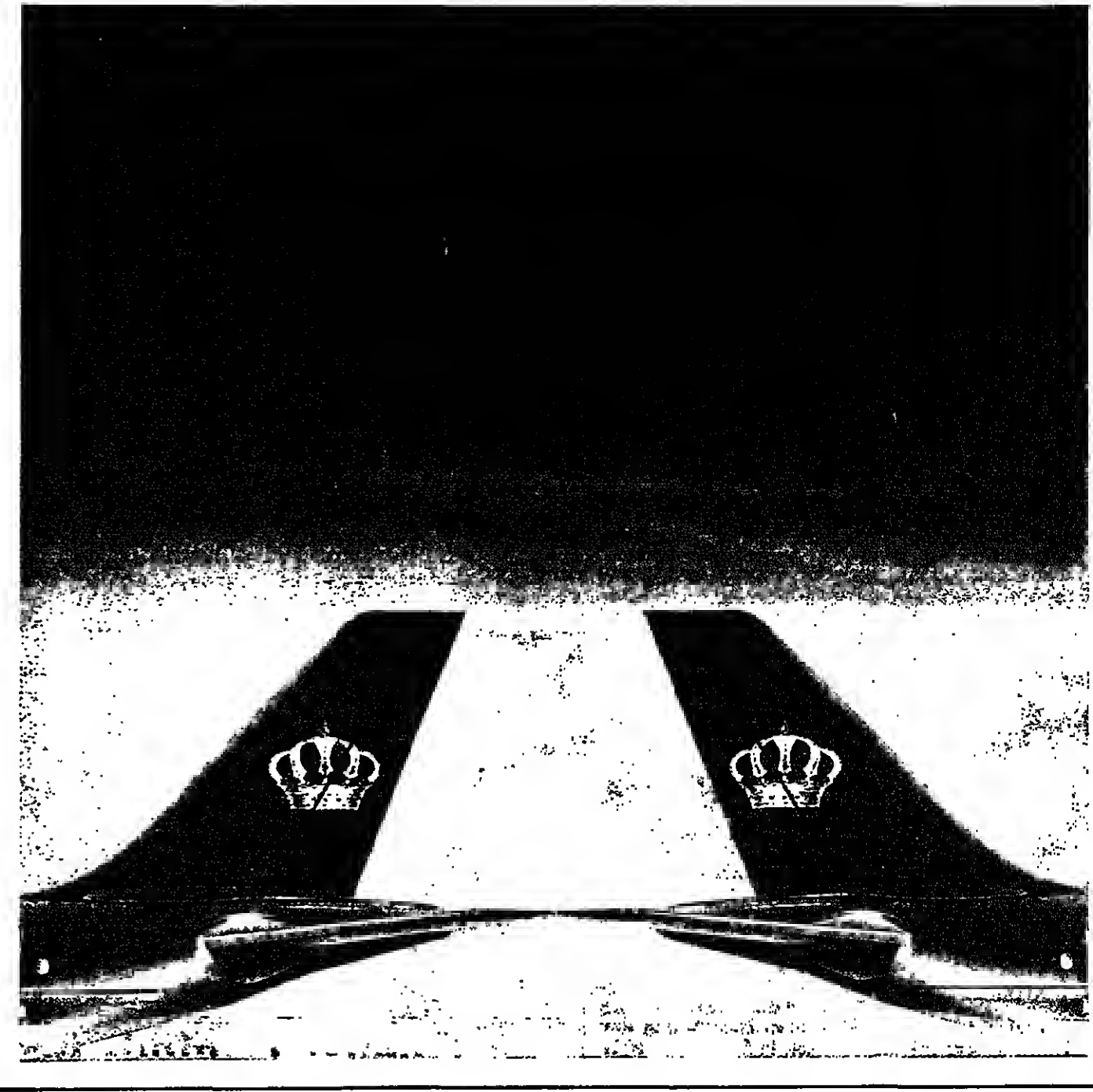
"The Maghreb will provide the necessary weight that the opposition popular movement will need to compensate for the absence of an effective role by the Egyptian parties," predicted a Jordanian political activist.

DISCOVER THE WORLD FROM THE GATEWAY OF ROYAL JORDANIAN

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Iraq toughens position

(Continued from page 1)

battle on behalf of all Muslims and believers. "We here in the Iraq of Arabs and Muslim believers have decided without any retreat to lead the gathering of the believers in the land of Iraq until the honest end," it said.

"God wants Iraq to wage the battle on Iraqi soil for the liberation of Jerusalem and other holy shrines."

The television showed President Saddam Hussein presiding over a joint meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council and the leadership of the Baath party.

The statement accused Iraq's enemies of denying the Iraqi peo-

ple food "and imposing a siege even on civil aircraft in order to put the people of Iraq in a prison."

It told the Iraqi people that they should not worry "to what level the battles might lead you"

"It's a great honour for every Iraqi man and woman and every honest Arab and every honest believer," it said. The Iraqi statement urged the Iraqi people to stand firm saying God had chosen them to defend "humanity, the poor and miserable people."

It denounced Iraq's enemies saying: "May the curse of God fall on them, fall on those dwarfs that are led by Bush, Fahd and Hosni."

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Commonwealth ministers back British debt plan

PORT OF SPAIN (R) — A British debt relief plan for the world's poorest countries won strong backing Thursday from Commonwealth finance ministers but must clear a bigger hurdle when it goes before major industrial nations.

A communiqué issued after a two-day meeting welcomed the plan presented by British Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major calling for up to \$18 billion owed to Western creditor governments to be written off.

Finance ministers from more than 40 Commonwealth nations called on the so-called Paris Club of creditor governments to adopt the plan.

"At this stage the expectation and hope was that the proposals would find a favourable response in the Paris Club. We did not contemplate what would happen if the opposite were the case," Commonwealth Secretary General Emeke Anyaoku told a news conference.

A British treasury official strongly defended the proposal even though he acknowledged there may be some bargaining ahead with Britain's main industrial partners.

"The logic behind this is unassailable, even though it may

Czechoslovakia rejoins IMF fold, seeks help for reforms

WASHINGTON (R) — Czechoslovakia rejoined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Thursday after a break of more than 35 years and immediately announced plans for major borrowing to support its economic reform programme.

Finance Minister Václav Klaus said Czechoslovakia would seek financial support from both the fund and major industrial countries to back a package of sweeping economic reforms due to come into force Jan. 1 next year.

But Klaus warned that the Gulf crisis and spiralling world oil prices would have a serious impact on the economy and could make it more difficult to sell tough reforms to the people as Czechoslovakia tried to set aside years of communist central planning.

"This will complicate our reform measures dramatically," Klaus told a news conference after signing articles of agreement to make Czechoslovakia the 152nd member of the IMF and World Bank.

"It is a very unhappy coincidence of events, it is coming at the same time as we are introducing radical economic measures and cutting subsidies at home," he noted.

Czechoslovakia had been one of the founding members of the IMF and World Bank, taking part in the 1944 Bretton Woods conference in New Hampshire which shaped the post-war world monetary order.

But, in 1954 the communist government in Prague pulled out of the IMF and World Bank as the Soviet Union and its allies set up a rival East Bloc economic system based on barter and grouped around the trade organisation Comecon.

Bulgaria has also applied to join the IMF and World Bank and is expected to be admitted next week. The Soviet Union is sending a special delegation to this year's annual fund and World Bank meetings now getting underway here but has as yet made no formal application for membership.

World Bank President Barber Conable said Thursday he did not expect the Soviet Union to join soon.

Klaus, who made rejoining the fund his first task in the new Czechoslovak government after last year's revolution, said he wanted to negotiate a "stand-by" credit with the IMF and was

Philippines increases oil price

MANILA (R) — The Philippines Friday raised petrol and fuel oil prices by between 21 and 36 per cent, sparking strike threats from major labour and transport organisations.

President Corason Aquino said the government was forced to raise prices because of the Gulf crisis and warned labour groups against causing unrest.

The government cushioned the increase by reducing the tax on oil before announcing the rise in retail prices, fearing that right-wing army rebels would use the oil price issue as a rallying point to launch a fresh coup attempt.

Although the Philippines imports almost all its oil, prices are still among the lowest in Asia.

The price of premium petrol was increased by 25.5 per cent to 8.86 pesos (34 U.S. cents) a litre.

Aquino, who has survived six coup attempts since being swept to power in a popular revolt in 1986, said prices had to go up because they were set when oil averaged \$15 a barrel, against the present price of over \$30.

She urged the country of 60 million people to conserve energy.

Jordan, Turkey and Egypt to get special aid from World Bank, IMF

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank have pledged to draw up an aid package for countries hurt by the Gulf crisis and sharply higher oil prices.

World Bank President Barber Conable said Thursday the bank would coordinate with the IMF in the financing package that will include a multilateral pool of funds that could help offset the economic misery caused by the crisis, particularly in the frontline states of Jordan, Turkey and Egypt.

At the same time, they are assessing the global damage of the jump in oil prices and the loss of income which workers in the Gulf had sent home to their countries.

"There are several things we can do and expect to do," Conable told reporters.

"The Gulf crisis will severely impact some nations," IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus told a news conference Thursday. "We expect to be able to help all our countries overcome these difficulties."

Both Conable and Camdessus spoke with reporters as finance

Gulf aid package pressures Japanese government and business community

TOKYO (R) — After pledging a \$4 billion aid package to the Gulf, Japan's government says it is strapped for cash.

Many economists expect the government to knock on the door of prosperous private industry. But corporations may prove slow to answer.

"We want to play an active role in burden sharing," said Yoshiharu Tateishi, a spokesman for automotive giant Toyota. "But we're running a business. We are not in a position to contribute free goods to the government."

Bowing to U.S. pressure, Japan last week boosted its initial \$1 billion pledge of Gulf aid to \$4 billion — \$2 billion in economic aid to "frontline" Middle East countries, and \$2 billion in non-military aid to multinational forces.

Venezuela, Tunisia and Bolivia join GATT

GENEVA (R) — Tunisia, Venezuela and Bolivia have joined the world trade forum, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), in the past month, raising its total membership to 99, a GATT spokesman has said.

Costa Rica is likely to become the 100th member in the coming weeks after its ratification, and Algeria, Bulgaria, China, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nepal and Paraguay are all negotiating membership.

Geneva-based GATT, founded in 1948 with a mission to liberalise world trade, covers around 90 per cent of international commerce.

Members qualify for most-favoured nation trading status with other member states, and if they think they are being treated unfairly, they can take their dispute to a GATT panel.

Tunisia, which became a contracting party Aug. 19, agreed to bind tariffs on a majority of its imports at levels ranging from 17 to 52 per cent.

Once tariffs are bound, they cannot be raised unless other trade concessions are offered to the GATT forum.

Oil exporter Venezuela joined Aug. 31, binding its entire tariff schedule at 50 per cent, to be lowered in two years to 40 per cent. It had already reduced its tariff rates from as high as 135 per cent.

Bolivia became a member Sept. 8 and bound its entire tariff schedule at a ceiling of 40 per cent. It described its accession as an act of faith in the multilateral trading system and in GATT.

Unity threatens jobs for 75 per cent of East Berlin key bureaucrats

EAST BERLIN (R) — Seventy-five per cent of East Berlin's 13,000 cabinet ministry staff will be sacked, retired early or put on a waiting list for rehire after German unification, the government said Friday.

Cabinet ministry staff are mainly headquarters policy-makers and administrators — in addition to the 1.5 million employed throughout the state bureaucracy.

The East German government personnel office said only a tenth of these key employees in the bloated formerly communist ministries could expect to be retained as civil servants with job security in the new Germany.

Some 10 to 15 per cent would be kept as contractual employees for specific tasks, it said.

Fifty per cent would be placed on a waiting list with 70 per cent pay and encouraged to enrol in retraining programmes pending a decision on their future by the early summer of 1991.

The rest would be fired or handed early retirement.

"Any employee found in planned background checks to have collaborated with the former communist security police, the Stasi, was unlikely to be kept on in the new government."

East German ministries employed 30,000 people before the 1989 popular revolution.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Thursday, September 20, 1990 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	A/Sell	French franc
U.S. dollar	658.0	662.0	125.0
Pound Sterling	1239.4	1246.8	481.5
Deutsche mark	418.7	421.2	371.5
Swiss franc	302.5	305.5	114.3
			56.4
			204.4
			203.6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.			
	One Sterling	One U.S. dollar	
U.S. dollar	1.8455/65		U.S. dollar
Canadian dollar	1.1547/57		Canadian dollar
Deutsche mark	1.5800/10		Deutsche mark
Dutch guilders	1.7795/7805		Dutch guilders
Swiss francs	1.3215/25		Swiss francs
Belgian francs	32.40/45		Belgian francs
French francs	5.2850/2900		French francs
Italian lire	1175/1176		Italian lire
Japanese yen	137.20/30		Japanese yen
Swedish crowns	5.7920/70		Swedish crowns
Norwegian crowns	6.0915/65		Norwegian crowns
Danish crowns	6.0085/0135		Danish crowns
U.S. dollars	389.00/389.50		U.S. dollars

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1990 S. Africa death toll reaches 1,700

Mandela ready to meet Buthelezi

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela said Friday he was ready to meet Inkatha chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi to help end faction fighting that has claimed almost 1,700 lives this year.

Mandela, saying that Buthelezi was his friend, praised the Inkatha leader and said the two groups must end their rivalry. The statement represented an abrupt turnaround after the ANC had for months refused to deal with Buthelezi.

There was no immediate response from Inkatha.

"I remain indebted to him because of our friendship and the support that he has given to me," Mandela said in an interview with state-run South African Broadcasting Corp (SABC).

A senior police officer said Friday 1,689 people have been killed and 1,607 injured in political violence in South Africa so far this year, with hundreds dying in recent weeks. The dead included 36 police officers, he said.

It was the first time police had

provided overall casualty figures for the wave of violence sweeping South Africa.

"The present state of unrest and violence is alarmingly intense and widespread," Lt.-Gen. Louwille Malan said.

He said 792 people had been killed in recent weeks in bloody battles between ANC supporters and Inkatha followers in the Johannesburg area.

Mandela again criticised the government Friday for recent steps to halt faction fighting around Johannesburg. He said the measures only served the government's interests and did not aid blacks.

"I had in mind that these would be measures, which would take the interests of both black and white into account, that they would be measures acceptable to both sides," he told SABC.

The government last week adopted tougher security measures and sent more police and troops into townships to try and halt the violence. The ANC claims the measures discriminate against their supporters.

The ANC's National Executive Committee issued a statement late Thursday saying it was ready to meet with Buthelezi and other black homeland chiefs. Homelands were set up by the white government as separate states for blacks in a country where blacks have no voice in national politics.

There was no indication of when or where such a meeting would be held.

The ANC, blaming Inkatha for the fighting, previously rejected meeting with Buthelezi. The statement Thursday still blamed Inkatha "vigilantes" and "elements" of government security forces for the violence.

It also said the government had adopted a "laissez-faire" attitude toward the violence in the hope it would generate "insecurity, fear and terror" to make citizens accept authoritarian measures.

Buthelezi, the KwaZulu homeland chief minister, has previously rejected efforts by his opponents to classify him solely as a homeland chief. He has sought to deal with the ANC as a political

equal and called repeatedly for a meeting with Mandela.

The two black opposition movements are divided by differing visions of a future South Africa and strong leadership rivalries, compounded by tribal differences. Both oppose apartheid.

The ANC statement also reiterated calls for an independent review board to investigate complaints against police. Mandela and other black leaders have alleged that police use unnecessary force and favour Inkatha in the township fighting.

The ANC has warned President F.W. de Klerk that talks on a non-racial South African democracy could collapse unless he acts to stop a black township war which has killed nearly 800 people.

"We warn the South African government that unless it is seen to be taking appropriate measures to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators of this violence, it will have to assume full responsibility for derailing of the peace process," it said.

Sihanouk accepts government demand on council

BANGKOK (AP) — Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk urged his guerrilla allies Friday to give the government another seat on a national council if Sihanouk becomes chairman. The concession was an attempt to end deadlocked peace talks.

An agreement could revive the work of the Supreme National Council (SNC), which under a U.N. peace plan is eventually to help guide the nation to democracy through new elections, ending 11 years of war.

The first meeting of this council collapsed Wednesday in Bangkok over the conditions under which Sihanouk, a former head of state and the key figure in any peace settlement, should be made chairman.

Yeltsin unhurt in Moscow car crash

MOSCOW (R) — Boris Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Federation and a key figure in the Soviet Union's mounting political and economic crisis, was involved in a car crash Friday but an aide said he is not hurt.

"He is in hospital for a check-up. He is alive and well, and smiling," Valentina Lantseva, Yeltsin's information aide, told Reuters. "There is no need for any panic."

A Moscow police spokesman said the accident happened about 8.30 a.m. on Moscow's central Tverskoi Street as Yeltsin was driving to the parliament of the Russian Federation where he was due to preside over a morning session.

On Thursday, the parliament of the biggest republic voted to call on the central Soviet legislature, the Supreme Soviet, to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov because of his resistance to radical economic reform.

Since Yeltsin, 59, became Russian Federation president in May, the parliament has become increasingly radical and championed the cause of wide-ranging independence from Moscow among all the 15 Soviet republics.

Lantseva, contacted by telephone, said the accident happened when a small passenger saloon "broke traffic regulations and shot out, hitting Boris Nikolayevich's (Yeltsin's) car on the side he was sitting."

"But it was nothing serious. He is conscious. He has telephoned his wife from hospital. There is no danger to his life whatsoever."

The police spokesman said Yeltsin was expelled from the Communist Party's ruling politburo in 1988 after criticising the pace of Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms — stepped from his car, a black Volga Saloon, unhurt after the accident.

Residents of the apartment building just off Tverskoi Street where Yeltsin lives with his wife said he returned home after the crash shaken but not injured.

Workers uncover \$100m treasure in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Seven Egyptian workers found a centuries-old treasure of gold coins in old Cairo which antiquities experts said was worth more than \$100 million.

The seven failed to report the find and divided the hoard amongst themselves but were discovered after one tried to sell his share in the gold market, police said. Police, who recovered the treasure, said the workers came across an amphora — an ancient two-handled clay pot — filled with some 2,700 coins of 24 carat gold while renovating a building.

The pot was hidden behind a wall in an historic building in Cairo's old quarter near Al-Azhar, one of the world's oldest seats of Islamic learning. Cairo television later showed the coins which experts said dated back to the Memphite Dynasty, which ruled Egypt from the 12th to the 16th centuries.

Experts quoted by Cairo newspapers said the treasure was worth 270 million Egyptian pounds (\$100 million). All the workers have been arrested and charged, police said.

Army called out in north India to quell caste fury

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian army was called out in the northern city of Chandigarh Friday to quell violent protests against a government plan to set aside jobs for low-caste Hindus.

A leader of a Hindu revivalist party propping up Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's minority National Front government threatened to withdraw support if he does not act to cool the issue.

"If he does not come to his senses, blood will flow in the streets of India and he will be responsible for it," Madan Lal Khurana of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) told a rally in New Delhi.

Gangs of protesters pelted police with stones and set fire to 120 government vehicles in Chandigarh Friday, a day after a student tried to burn himself to death in the Haryana town of Sirsa in protest at the jobs plan.

Chandigarh is capital of both Haryana state and Punjab, where security forces are fighting a decade-old Sikh separatist insurgency.

"We are not handing over the city to the army but we have asked them to restore civil order," Baleshar Rai, adviser to

Chandigarh's governor, told reporters.

Curfew was in force in several areas of the city and all shops and offices were closed, he said.

Three students tried to set themselves on fire outside a Delhi University college earlier this week. One was still in critical condition Friday with severe burns.

They were trying to shock the government into scrapping plans announced on Aug. 7 to set aside another 27 per cent of government jobs for people low down the Hindu social scale.

Already 22.5 per cent of central government jobs are reserved for people of the lowest caste.

The Indian media has reported at least 38 deaths since protests began about six weeks ago. Opposition to the job policy comes mainly from upper caste Hindus who dominate India's business and bureaucracy.

In Jammu City, winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, police fired in the air Friday after protesters against the jobs plan damaged more than 100 buses and cars.

At least 50 people were injured when police used batons to disperse them, state officials said.

Sri Lankan troops kill 9 rebels in coastal battles

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Government troops killed six Tamil rebels in a raid on a hideout on Sri Lanka's eastern coast, military officials said Friday.

Three other rebels were killed when troops blew up their boat approaching Mandaitivu Island in the north, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Both attacks took place Thursday, the officials said.

Five fiberglass boats carrying rebels were destroyed in the raid at Palawanalan, 225 kilometres northeast of the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo. Mandaitivu is 285 kilometres north of the capital.

Rebels massacre civilians

Meanwhile, police officials Friday said 23 Sinhalese civilians were killed in an attack on a fishing village Wednesday, down from the estimate of 40 dead announced earlier by the Defence Ministry.

The government accused the Tamil Tigers rebel group of the killings at Vellamundel, 170 kilometres north of Colombo.

No contact with the rebels is possible from Colombo. They are based on the Jaffna peninsula, where communication links have been cut since June.

Police officials in Puttalam, 48 kilometres from Vellamundel, said 23 bodies were found in the charred remains of the 11 huts set on fire by suspected rebels.

The victims include 17 men, three women and three children who were hacked and shot to death and their bodies left to burn in the blazing houses, said the officials, who were contacted by telephone. They cannot be identified under standing regulations.

Land mines placed by the rebels delayed troops from reaching Vellamundel, which was accessible only by boat, said the officials.

The attack was the latest in a series of civilian killings attributed to the rebels, who are fighting for a separate Tamil homeland in the north and the east.

Sri Lanka's north is dominated by the Tamil minority, but some areas have Sinhalese communities. Tamils, Sinhalese and Muslims are about equally distributed in the eastern districts.

Nationwide, Tamils form 18 per cent of the population, and the Sinhalese account for 75 per cent of the country's 16 million people. Muslims make up about 7 per cent.

The surviving grief-stricken villagers, gathered around the bodies of the slain, related the harrowing story.

"I was collecting wood outside when I saw the men. I covered myself with branches and hid until they went away. Then I ran to the nearest jungle to get help," said Elizabeth Muri, whose sister and nephew were killed in the attack Wednesday.

As soon as he saw the armed men, A.K. Romulus fled into the jungle, hearing gunshots as he ran.

"I got into a boat and went across to the nearest village," said the fisherman, whose son was killed by the attackers.

The isolated fishing village has a lagoon on one side. On the other side it is surrounded by thick jungle, a wildlife sanctuary where the Tigers are known to be hiding.

This was the first time the rebels, fighting for a homeland of their own in the north and east, had attacked civilians in the majority Sinhalese-dominated area, a military officer told a Reuters reporter at the scene.

Drug lords kidnap two prominent Colombians

BOGOTA (R) — Colombian cocaine lords claimed responsibility Thursday for the recent kidnappings of two prominent journalists and the sister of a former government official, and demanded that the government treat them as a political group rather than as criminals.

A caller claiming to represent the powerful Medellin cocaine cartel telephoned Colombia's biggest-selling newspaper El Tiempo Thursday to say that its editor, Francisco Santos — seized in Bogota a day before — was in the hands of the cartel, El Tiempo said in a statement.

The spokesman said the cartel had also abducted Diana Turbay, a leading journalist and daughter of a former president, and Marina Montoya, sister of a former top aide of ex-President Virgilio Barco.

The three are all prominent members of the ruling Liberal Party establishment, with close relations with the most influential people in Colombia, Montoya

Drug lords kidnap two prominent Colombians

was abducted Wednesday and Turbay has been missing for three weeks.

The spokesman set out the cartel's position but made no specific demands for the three's release. Nor did he say how long they would be held. He said the traffickers were awaiting orders from cartel boss Pablo Escobar, who he said was in Central America.

The drug barons said they wanted political treatment similar to that given to guerrilla groups that have entered peace talks with the government. Members of the M-19 rebel group were granted amnesty from prosecution when they handed in their arms last March, but the government has refused to give similar treatment to drug traffickers.

Colombian news reports have said that the kidnappings may be part of a cartel attempt to press for a negotiated solution to the drug war. The drug lords declared a unilateral truce two months ago.

Truck driver gets shocking surprise

TERAMO, Italy (AP) — A truck driver who went to a brothel expecting a discreet dalliance instead came a shocking surprise — his wife. It turned out the woman, a homemaker by day, had been working as a call girl by night unbeknownst to her husband. The story was recounted in La Stampa newspaper of Turin.

According to the account, a friend gave the 35-year-old truck driver the address of an exclusive bordello in Teramo in central Italy and recommended he ask for a particular woman working there. "After a half-hour wait, when he finally obtained the prohibited meeting, the woman he dreamed of and whom he knew only by her working name turned out to be his wife, housewife by day, high-class call girl by night," the newspaper said. The report said the wife tried to run away, but the husband caught her. She filed charges against him after he hit her, the newspaper said.

Bulgaria's Socialists form 1-party government

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's Socialist Party, the only former Communist Party in Eastern Europe to win a majority in free elections, formed a new, one-party government Friday.

A late-night session of parliament, Bulgaria's first freely-elected National Assembly after four decades of Communist rule, approved a draft list of ministers proposed by Prime Minister Andrei Lukanov.

Most deputies of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), which has refused all offers by the Socialists to join a coalition government, boycotted the vote.

UDF leaders say they spurned the coalition invitations because they want the former Communists to bear the blame for Bulgaria's present economic crisis and chronic food shortages.

The new government contained few surprises. Defence Minister Dobri Dzhurov and Foreign Minister Boyko Dimitrov were dropped from the cabinet and replaced by their deputies.

Dzhurov, 74, is a popular figure with many older Bulgarians. But opposition leaders say he was compromised by his once close association with Todor Zhivkov,

the disgraced hardline Communist leader ousted from power in November.

The government included three independents — Culture Minister Dimo Dimov, Science Minister Iliya Konev and Enilia Maslarova, who will head the new Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare. The Ministry of Justice has still to be filled.

All but one UDF deputy refused to enter the main parliamentary chamber to hear the results of the vote, but sat instead in a gallery for spectators.

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"We deeply regret that such an undemocratic procedure was imposed on us," UDF spokesman Stoyan Ganey said.

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U.S., Philippines adjourn talks on bases

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. and Philippine officials adjourned talks Friday on the future of U.S. military bases, with the Americans offering to cut their forces but no agreement on the scale or timetable.

On the eve of the talks President Corason Aquino said the time had come for an orderly withdrawal from the bases, which some Filipinos feel infringe on national sovereignty.

Spokesmen for both sides told reporters Friday that they would resume talks in about a month in Manila. No precise date was announced.

Philippine officials said they want complete control "as soon as possible" of Clark Air Base, the largest U.S. overseas installation.

They stated that position Thursday on the third day of talks on the future of Clark, Subic Bay Naval Base and four smaller facilities. Their lease expires in September 1991.

Chief U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage and Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus had agreed that Wallace Air Station, Camp John Hay, the San Miguel Communications Station and Camp O'Donnell revert to Filipino control next year, according to Philippine spokesman Rafael Alunan.

However, the spokesman for the U.S. panel, Stanley Schragger, said Friday that no decision had been reached on any of the installations.

"The other facilities have been mentioned briefly, and we have not come to a conclusion on what

should be done with any of them at this time," Schragger said.

When the talks began Tuesday, Armitage said the days of a large American military presence here were coming to an end.

Alunan said the United States had proposed a 10-to-12 year phase-out of its forces, but Schragger said no specific schedule had been discussed.

"The duration is something that will be discussed, and we have not really set out any outer limits or parameters on what we would like to see happen at this point," Schragger said.

Alunan said the Philippine government had not yet formed its own position on the withdrawal timetable.

The bases are technically under Philippine control but are effectively run by the Americans, who ruled this island nation from 1898 until independence in 1946.

The United States maintains 40,000 troops, Defence Department officials and military dependents at the six bases. Schragger said the United States is seeking to maintain access to some of the military facilities.

"They will be Philippine bases to which the U.S. would hope to have some access as it has with other countries around the world," Schragger told reporters Thursday.

Meanwhile angry students taunt club-wielding police with chants of "U.S. bases out."

American officials issue dire warnings of bombings and assassinations by anti-bases extremists.

Opponents of the bases paint a

picture of a growing discontent with the 40,000 Americans.

However, a survey last March by the Ateneo University found that 35 per cent of the 1,200 Filipinos polled nationwide were unaware that the United States maintains bases here.

Only 18 per cent wanted the bases either phased out or closed immediately. Forty per cent supported keeping the bases indefinitely.

Despite sizeable pro-bases sentiment, no Filipino politician of national status unequivocally supports retaining the bases, which U.S. officials claim pump \$1 billion annually into the economy of this troubled country.

That illustrates the political realities in a country which calls itself democratic but whose public policy is decided by a few people in Manila.

Over the years, Filipino nationalism has come to be defined as standing up to America and its most visible symbol — the bases.

For bases critics, the issue has little to do with national security, economic impact or the country's relationship with the United States, Japan, Singapore and other nations that rely on the facilities.

Unlike the Japanese, West Germans and others who host U.S. facilities, Filipinos perceive no external military threat. Last year, Mrs. Aquino said the presence of the American forces not only failed to deter Japanese invasion in 1941 but doubtless prompted attack.

Closing the bases would be an

assertion of sovereignty against the United States, which many Filipinos believe still exerts powerful influence over their country more than 40 years after independence.

"You must understand that other Asian peoples, the Singaporeans, and the Japanese and the Koreans, can deal easier with the Americans because you were never their colonial master," said one Asian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"For the Filipinos, it's different. The old relationship of ruler and the ruled is a heavy psychological burden," he said.

Support for the bases would brand a politician as an "anti-nationalist" unpatriotic tool of the former colonial power.

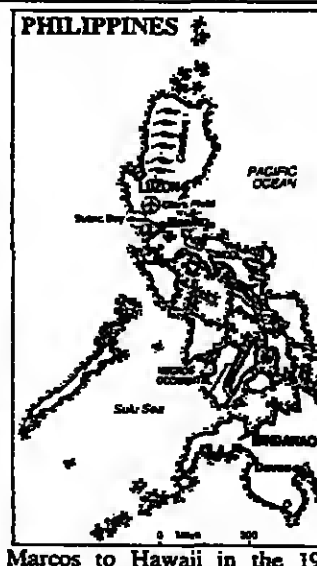
For many Filipinos, it is an article of faith that the United States interferes in Philippine affairs to guarantee keeping the bases.

That view was reinforced by Washington's longtime support for the late President Ferdinand Marcos. Despite alleged U.S. sponsorship of democracy, the Americans tolerated Marcos' repressive rule, apparently to maintain their bases here.

Opposition to Marcos, therefore, took on the added character of opposition to the bases. Many of those in the forefront of the anti-Marcos struggle now hold key positions in the administration, congress and the media.

The bases have become so symbolic of American "intervention" that any U.S. move is seen as a bid to retain the installations.

When Washington ushered out



Fans keep Hendrix memory alive

RENTON, Washington (AP) — Twenty years after his death, Jimi Hendrix still packs 'em in. They don't come in large numbers at any one time, but they come. Some bring guitars or flowers, and some spend time at his grave, strumming. "The crowds here have mellowed a bit," said Hank Kerns, general manager of Greenwood Memorial Park, where Hendrix is buried. "Once in a while they'll leave a beer can, but we're careful to get it picked up right away." Kerns said the number of visitors to Hendrix's grave has increased during the past few years. Hendrix died at age 27 in London on Sept. 18, 1970. According to coroner's records, he died when he choked on his vomit. A non-lethal amount of barbiturates was found in his system. "Forever in our hearts," reads his headstone, which includes an electric guitar carved in bas-relief. There is little to indicate the pyrotechnical flair of his playing, which stunned listeners with its passion and technical expertise.

Gabon rejects opposition demand for new elections

LIBREVILLE (R) — President Omar Bongo, who survived bitter anti-government protests in May, has risked opposition fury by rejecting mounting pressure for invalidating Gabon's chaotic first multi-party elections.

Bongo's prime minister announced late Thursday that there would be no fresh polls except in constituencies where the first round of balloting Sunday had already been nullified.

The authorities declared the ballot void in 32 of 120 constituencies contesting seats in Gabon's 120-member parliament because of massive polling irregularities and opposition charges of rigging.

A preliminary round would take place in such districts on Oct. 21 with a runoff a week

later. Prime Minister Casimir Oye Mba said on state radio and television.

Political parties have until Oct. 14 to declare candidates.

Bongo, ruler of this oil-rich West African state since 1968, debated the election issue with his inner cabinet all day Thursday after an opposition leader demanded the entire election be declared null.

"We demand the annulment of elections in the entire country," declared Pierre Louis Ogonjo, head of the Progress Party of Gabon (PPG) which sacked Gabon's oil capital in anti-government unrest last May.

Ogonjo, a lawyer, refused at a press conference Wednesday to speculate on what would happen if Bongo rejected the demands.

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"We deeply regret that such an undemocratic procedure was imposed on us," UDF spokesman Stoyan Ganey said.

Opposition leaders say they do not expect the government to last for long.

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